Down And Out In Beverly Hills

~~JERRY SAVED FROM DROWNING~~

by

Paul Mazursky and Leon Capetanos

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - BEVERLY HILLS - MORNING

Three workmen from the city of Beverly Hills are installing Christmas decorations along Wilshire Boulevard. Two men struggle up the ladder with a chrome reindeer and Santa. They chat amiably about the coming ball game. The weather is warm enough on this Thanksgiving so that they work in T-shirts. One T-shirt bears the legend "When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping." Another shirt reads "Camp Beverly Hills." TILT DOWN to a grocery cart which tilts into the curb. The cart is filled with debris, the flotsam of a hundred streets. The debris begins to move and slowly what seems to be a human figure emerges from the garbage. The irritated BUM face glares up at the chatty workmen.

JERRY
Pipe down, amigos. I'm snoozing.

He folds back into the debris.

MED. SHOT - DERELICT

Another derelict awakens from his deep and innocent sleep on a bus bench in Beverly Hills. He stretches and yawns.

ANGLE - GARBAGE TRUCK - DAY

A garbage truck noisily lifts a dumpster. What seems to be human screams "Stop!" to the workers. A still drunk bum rolls out of the dumpster and, before his curses can stop echoing, he limps off up the street.

MED. SHOT - BEVERLY HILLS

A large Spanish house on one of the palm-lined avenues of the Beverly Hills flats. A serene palace on a manicured lawn.

INT. BEDROOM - FULL SHOT

The massive bedroom of the house and the massive bed. DAVID WHITEMAN comes awake with the channel selector still in his hand.

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BARBARA, his wife, lies next to him, her face covered by a sleeping mask. She is in a near coma as her husband of twenty-three years steps from the bed, accidentally stepping on his wife's Yorkshire terrier, MATISSE, who SNARLS like a banshee and has to be kicked away.

INT. HALL - DAY

Dave finds a note attached to a VHS recorder and sleepily punches up the machine.

FULL SHOT - SCREEN

MAX, a good-looking boy of sixteen or seventeen, smiles. His hair is bleached a violent punk red and is worn rather androgynously.

MAX
Hello, Dad, I just want you to know why I'm being so silent lately. Nothing personal, but I feel that it is impossible to express myself in words. Here is tape which expresses my state of mind right now.

The tape flips on and we see a montage of naked girls and surfers and Arabs flying kites and a lily and a frog and two old ladies in London with the face of Peter Jennings superimposed along with Little Richard singing. Gunshots and car wrecks and a little feyness. It lasts less than thirty seconds.

CLOSE SHOT - DAVE

He doesn't understand what he has seen, but he accepts it.

DAVE
My son, the filmmaker.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Dave now wears a blue cotton jumpsuit with his initials monogrammed on the pocket. He walks past his brand new cream Rolls Royce and pats it on the hood. The sprinklers spray the velvet lawn. Paradise. Dave picks up the daily paper, which has been wrapped in protective cellophane.

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One of the sprinklers starts to sputter wildly, spraying both Dave and the Rolls.

DAVE
Gotta call the sprinkler man.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The bum (JERRY BASKIN) has also risen in this early morning and finding a faucet he rinses his mouth and douses his matted hair. Stooping, he finds the remains of a paper, which he collects. An old cigarette butt attracts his attention.

MED. SHOT - JERRY

Jerry looking through a trash container and he finds a half paper cup of coffee and three-quarters of a powdered doughnut. He is elated. Now we see that there is a dog in the debris of his cart. He shares his breakfast with this timid stray.

JERRY
Come on... eat this, pal... build you up.

INT. KITCHEN OF DAVE'S HOUSE

Dave sits at the lovely counter and reads the sports section, wolfing down his morning Danish and coffee. He eats very fast and practically swallows an entire Danish.

DAVE
... Way to go. Giants ripped the Redskins 36 to 14!

EXT. STREET

The dog sits next to Jerry while Jerry reads a little of the depressing news of the day to the animal.

JERRY
(reads)
Floods in Malibu... Riots in Pakistan... look here, Kerouac. A pharmacist in Akron, Ohio, set fire to his mother. Just before Thanksgiving.

INT. DAVE'S BATHROOM

This is an Olympic-sized bathroom, magnificent in its opulence and large enough for a family of seven. Dave is feeling a bit under the weather. He opens the medicine cabinet. Neat rows of Mylanta, large Tylenol, Preparation H, Medicinal Wipes, liquid tablets... Dave is not sure what to use this morning. Impulsively, he grabs a large bottle of Pepto Bismol and takes a long swallow of the stuff. He burps slightly and feels better.

EXT. STREET

Jerry is searching for more garbage as another bum saunters by. Jerry gives him a territorial glare and the bum keeps on shuffling. Jerry bumps into a STYLISH WOMAN. He keeps on moving. The Stylish Woman puckers her nose in disgust at the aroma coming from Jerry. She turns to another stylish woman.

STYLISH WOMAN
Don't you think the police should do something about these bums in Beverly Hills?

Jerry picks his nose.

JERRY
(to dog)
Come on, Kerouac. Let's try the south of France.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAY

Dave is talking with his wife, Barbara, as she fusses into the kitchen. The maid, a cute twenty-five-year-old Salvadorean, CARMEN, helps with the Thanksgiving preparations.

CARMEN
Mr. Whiteman, what a nice hump suit.

Barbara is trying to speak Spanish from her manual.

BARBARA
Carmen, limpie las... how do you say candelabras? Candelabaras!

DAVE
For Christ's sake, Barbara... she speaks good English.

(CONTINUED)

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BARBARA
I'm aware of that, Dave. But I'm trying to improve my language skills so that if we go to Mexico, somebody can take over in an emergencia.

Barbara is a handsome, bedeviled woman. She is seeking every way possible to restore her energies.

DAVE
Where's Jenny?

BARBARA
Asleep. Por favor... vaya al mercardo y...

MAX enters with his video tape camera in hand. He uses the camera as a shield and a sword.

MAX
(to mike)
Family. Take one. Scene one. Preparing the feast. My father, Dave Whiteman.

DAVE
Get out of here.

BARBARA
How do you think Steven Spielberg got started?

MAX
I'm rolling. How do you feel this Thanksgiving?

DAVE
(to camera)
How do I feel? I'll tell you how I feel. I wish my son would stop being ridiculous on this day when we should all give thanks for our blessings.

MAX
And guilty?

DAVE
We should all feel a little guilty. People are starving.

BARBARA
Guilt is useless.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Did your swami tell you that?

BARBARA
My yogi... Bashwan...

DOORBELL RINGS.

DAVE
Isn't this a holiday?

BARBARA
It's the caterer... with the turkey.

MAX
Arrival of the bird.

BARBARA
Carmen, la porta, por favor.

Max follows Carmen to the service door, using his camera very professionally. The CATERER brings in the turkey. He crisscrosses with the speeding form of JENNY WHITEMAN, the twenty-year-old daughter of the family. She is pretty, very intense and very, very thin.

MAX
The sister... the princess... home from Bryn Mawr.

JENNY
Hi... I'm off to the beach. If Stacey calls, tell her I'm on the way.

BARBARA
No breakfast?

JENNY
I'll have something down there. Hi, Dad.

A kiss.

DAVE
I always seem to be waving to her. For years, she's been just a blur with a nice smell.

Max pans the room.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
(continuing;
to Caterer)
You think this bird is big enough?
My father loves white meat.

CATERER
Your bird is bigger than the Mel Brooks' bird and he's got fifteen people coming, Mr. W.

BARBARA
Is he nice, Mel Brooks?

CATERER
A very sweet man.

Matisse comes running into the kitchen and attacks the Caterer. As the Caterer exits, Max focuses on the wild dog.

DAVE
That dog is going to kill somebody.

EXT. JOGGING PARK - CLOSE SHOT - JERRY - DAY

Jerry is dozing. The dog licks his face. Beverly Hills joggers whiz by. They don't see Jerry in the bushes.

JERRY
Let Jerry sleep...

He goes back to sleep.

MED. SHOT - DOG

The dog sniffs at Jerry's pockets looking for some food. There is nothing. Kerouac tries to relax but the dog is worried about his future.

MED. SHOT - GIRL

A pretty, corpulent GIRL heads up the path, sneaking a nibble at a fresh croissant.

MED. SHOT - KEROUAC

He sees the Girl coming. He stiffens and looks over to the still snoring Jerry. He takes a tentative step towards the Girl.

ANGLE - GIRL

She is lost in her own thoughts when she sees the hungry little dog. She does not see Jerry sleeping in the bushes.

GIRL
Poor thing.

She stops and feeds him a bit of croissant.

GIRL
(continuing)
Wasn't that good?

The dog hunts ravenously for crumbs while the girl walks on up the jogging path.

MED. SHOT - DOG

The dog, Kerouac, wants to follow this new friend. She calls to him, but he runs away at first. He glances guiltily at Jerry and then back to the beckoning Girl and her bag of fresh croissants. He watches the wafting of her skirt. He sniffs the fresh baked goods.

CLOSE SHOT - JERRY

He is gone to dreamland. He rolls away mumbling.

MED. SHOT - DOG

The dog makes a dog decision and suddenly bolts for the Girl at the corner. She is surprised by this affection and enthusiasm.

GIRL
What a sweet dog. Are you lost, honey? You don't have a collar on.

She looks around for a possible owner and presses the dog to her ample breasts. Kerouac licks her crumb delicious lips and she giggles and walks away with him.

GIRL
(continuing)
I'm such a softie. Come home with me.

The dog gives one guilty look back to Jerry.

MED. SHOT - JERRY

He is totally unaware of his loss.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAY

The Thanksgiving feast is beginning. The gleaming bird is the centerpiece. Dave is presiding over the dinner, carving the turkey.

CLOSE SHOT - MAX

Max is still taking videos.

FULL SHOT - TABLE

At the table are Jenny, who has nothing on her plate, an anorexic aborning. Max and Barbara, who fusses with some glop she has blended for her dinner. Her yoga instructor, BASHWAN, who is eating as if he had to go back to India. SIDNEY, with the pencil moustache and the jokes, and his wife Pearl. Sidney is Dave's business manager. Dave's father and mother, MEL and SADIE, eat in silence. Dave and Barbara's friends, LOU and SHEILA, are jovial guests to have. Lou is a dentist. Carmen sits at the table with the guests, but frequently gets up to serve. At the moment, Sidney is showing Dave a three-foot by five-foot photo enlargement of a trailer park.

SIDNEY
This is our San Diego park. We're talking about five hundred units.

DAVE
(to Jenny)
Honey, some white meat.

JENNY
I ate at the beach.

LOU
What kind of people live in these trailer parks?

SIDNEY
You got your nice retired people. You got your people who are sick and tired of the rat race.

DAVE
Maybe I should move into one of my parks.

SIDNEY
(shows another huge blowup)
Here's your park in Calestoga, Dave. Six hundred units and they're all full.

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CONTINUED:

MAX
Hold the photo up higher, please, would you, Mister Waxman?

DAVE
Max, stop with the camera!

BASHWAN
(to Pearl)
You can walk on the fire... on the coals... no question.

PEARL
Sidney, Mr. Bashwan says he can teach me to walk on burning coals.

DAVE
Useful... if you're a fireman.

SIDNEY
Can he teach you to walk on water, Pearl?

PEARL
I have very small feet.

BASHWAN
It's in the mind.

SIDNEY
That's small, too.

BARBARA
Since we have very small minds it should be easy to teach us.

MEL
Pass the cranberry sauce, please.

BARBARA
Carmen, the cranberry, por favor.

PEARL
It could help when you had to walk on the beach, you know.

DAVE
Dad, more turkey? Mom?

MEL
There's no more white meat. I told you I love white meat.

SADIE
The pooch ate the white meat.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
I'm using another caterer next year.

SIDNEY
Make sure you give me the receipts, Dave.

PEARL
I'd like to try to walk on hot coals.

SIDNEY
Only if it's tax deductible.

SHEILA
How is your family, Carmen?

CARMEN
Not so very good, Senora Waltzberg. My brother is trying to get up here to find a job.

SHEILA
What does he do?

CARMEN
He picks sugar cane in the fields.

SIDNEY
Not much call for that in L.A.

LOU
How are your teeth, Carmen?

CARMEN
I think it is time for another cleaning.

LOU
Call the office, Carmen. There's no charge.

CARMEN
Gracias.

Matisse snaps at Sadie's feet.

BARBARA
Matisse! Stop that!

SADIE
That dog doesn't like us, David.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
That dog doesn't like anybody, Mom.

BARBARA
He's nervous. We're sending him to a psychiatrist.

MAX
(focuses on Matisse)
Neurotic dog scene. Take one!

DAVE
You're the one who's neurotic.

MAX
(whips camera to Dave)
Father and son scene. Take one.

DAVE
You should be learning the hanger business, not wasting time with that camera!

MAX
I don't like hangers.

DAVE
It's hangers that feed you. It's hangers that clothe you. It's hangers bought you that camera.

BASHWAN
Perhaps we should meditate for a moment.

DAVE
Max? What is troubling you? Talk to me, man to man.

MAX
Cut and print.

He exits.

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Jerry wakes up and shakes his greasy mane. He looks around, trying to focus at the passing, busy crowd.

JERRY
Kerouac!

CONTINUED:

No answer, and Jerry stands to look for his missing pet. He calls the name again, so loud that surrounding pedestrians are astonished and then frightened.

JERRY
(continuing)
Ke...rou...ac!

ANGLE - JERRY

He is frantic now. He starts searching the park and the lanes for the dog.

JERRY
You seen a little mutt... black and white.

A chic couple don't answer; they jog anxiously off at top speed. Jerry asks a BOY of twelve.

JERRY
(continuing)
You seen a dog... a little black and white dog?

BOY
I saw a dog... but it was brown... and it was big.

Jerry, distraught, rambles on.

JERRY
(frantic)
Here... Kerouac... here, boy.

He sees a discarded morsel of food in a trash bin and he grabs it for the dog and moves on.

FULL SHOT - RODEO DRIVE

Jerry passes the chic stores and the crowds but he is totally unaware of his surroundings. He bumps into a silk-covered matron and she gasps.

HIS POV

He thinks he sees a dog like Kerouac. He chases the animal through the Rodeo collection, jostling patrons and knocking over plants.

ANGLE - JERRY

Suddenly he sees the dog is not his. It shivers in the arms of its pudgy owner. Next to the angry owner stands a large security guard.

EXT. STREET - MED. SHOT - JERRY

He is led to the street where he is now met by a smiling duo of COPS in a patrol car.

COP
What's up?

JERRY
I'm looking for my dog... I lost my dog.

COP
You lost your dog?

JERRY
That's right, unless he was dognapped, which is possible.

COP
(laughs)
What kind of dog was it?

JERRY
A mutt like me.

COP
Well, maybe the poor dog is better off.

JERRY
Who asked you? You should be out looking for the thief... but you think it's... funny.

COP
I think you should move along and stop harassing people. And go downtown and take a shower!

JERRY
Screw you... I'm a citizen...

The Cop starts out of the car and Jerry sprints down the street, losing what is left of one shoe as he slides around the corner.

INT. ROLLS - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

Dave takes Jenny to the airport.

DAVE
I wish you could stay a little longer, honey.

JENNY
I'll be back for Christmas and maybe Jim will come home with me.

DAVE
I'd like to meet this guy. You seem pretty serious.

JENNY
(shrugs)
It's hard to find someone as nice as you, Dad.

DAVE
(beams)
What does he do, this Jim?

JENNY
He's a road manager for a rock group.

DAVE
I hope he's not a drug addict.

JENNY
He smokes a little grass and he uses some coke once in a while but I assure you he's perfectly normal.

DAVE
I hope you're not using drugs.

JENNY
Dad, you've got to stop the Inquisition. I'm twenty years old.

DAVE
... you haven't said anything about the car.

JENNY
It's nice.

DAVE
You don't think it's too Beverly Hills?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY
You don't have to justify anything, Dad. You work real hard for your money...

DAVE
I guess I am a little guilty.

JENNY
Guilt sucks.

DAVE
... be sure to eat a good meal on the plane.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - FULL SHOT

Barbara is putting avocado cream on her face. Dave is readying for bed.

FULL SHOT - MAX

He tapes his semi-nude self in the mirror.

FULL SHOT - CARMEN

She looks out the window of her room at the moon, blowing smoke rings out her window into the night stillness.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

He tries to exercise, touch toes...

DAVE
I'm really worried about Jenny. I think she's... anorexic.

BARBARA
Anyone who doesn't nosh all day is anorexic to you.

DAVE
Why couldn't she go to school nearby? There are great schools in California... great schools.

BARBARA
I think she wanted a change.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
And who is this Jim?

BARBARA
I'm sure he is very nice.

DAVE
You think they're having sex?

BARBARA
Dave, don't get yourself upset.

DAVE
What does that mean?

BARBARA
It's a new age... for women.

DAVE
You know more than you're saying.

BARBARA
I hope she is having sex. It's time.

DAVE
Is she into cocaine too?

BARBARA
(finds sleep mask)
What has cocaine got to do with sex?

DAVE
Nice shoulders.

He kisses her shoulder but she winces nervously and goes to the bed.

BARBARA
Must be the moon.

DAVE
I'm just feeling sexy. Who cares what the reason is.

BARBARA
I feel... depressed...

DAVE
Why?

BARBARA
My head... it started during dinner.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Max?

BARBARA
No... I'm convinced it's an allergy. So is Bashwan.

DAVE
Maybe you're allergic to me.

BARBARA
Dave.

DAVE
Are you happy?

BARBARA
I'm content.

DAVE
Sometimes I wonder.

BARBARA
I'm changing... and that causes some stresses.

DAVE
I thought the meditation was helping your headaches.

BARBARA
It helps... sometimes.

DAVE
Why don't you just take a couple of Tylenols?

BARBARA
I can't believe you said that.

DAVE
I'm worried about Max. He seems confused.

BARBARA
It's just the age. Good night, Dave.

DAVE
Good night, Barbara.

She nestles against him and kisses his cheek before putting on her mask and sliding into a sleep.

EXT. PARK - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

Jerry drinks himself into a kind of sadness with cheap wine. He sits among the hedges of the park. He is lonely and despairing.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - HALL

The sleeping terrier, Matisse, guards the hall. The dog stirs and then begins to GROWL, attacking a pair of slippered feet.

CLOSE SHOT - DAVE

He snarls back at the animal, but tries to pacify it.

DAVE
Shhh! Shh!! Here.

He drops a dog biscuit to the floor just long enough to get around the SNARLING DOG.

INT. KITCHEN - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

Dave acting out a casual role as he fakes going to the refrigerator for a drink of water. He coughs as a sign.

MED. SHOT - CARMEN

She stirs in her room. She smiles as she can hear Dave's NOISE.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

He looks towards her door and listens for any upstairs activity. He sees Carmen's door crack open. A WHISTLE.

Dave moves into the pantry. Breathless, Carmen joins him there. She leaps into his arms.

CARMEN
Oh, Mr. Whiteman... I thought you would come tonight.

DAVE
You have to call me Dave.

CARMEN
Dave... Dave...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He kisses her shoulders and she giggles and kisses the air.

CARMEN
(continuing)
I am the luckiest girl.

EXT. PANTRY - NIGHT

We hear the wonderful passionate GASPS and promises.

CARMEN (O.S.)
Oh... yes... bite me there... Dave ... Dave...

DAVE (O.S.)
Carmen... lift your leg. There. Oh...

EXT. KITCHEN DOOR - FULL SHOT

Matisse scratches at the door, trying to get in. He is an angry, frustrated dog as he finally bolts into the night yard.

EXT. YARD - MED. SHOT - NIGHT

Matisse seems to be thinking as he can hear the MUFFLED SOUNDS from the pantry. Finally he jumps into an electric sensor in the backyard doors. He breaks a light.

MED. SHOT - SECURITY OFFICE

The signal comes up to a drowsy officer.

INT. PANTRY - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

They reach their climax. Words of endearment whisper out. Several brooms RATTLE.

EXT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

In this early morning silence there is not even the sound of distant traffic until we hear the awesome wail of a giant SIREN which is part of the burglar alarm system of the house. A moment later, patrol cars arrive and officers come out with guns drawn.

INT. PANTRY - MED. SHOT - DOOR - NIGHT

Dave falls out of the pantry in a panic.

DAVE
Goddamn alarm! The cops are going to come.

CARMEN
(panicked)
I have no green card!

DAVE
It's okay. Go to your room and pronto.

She flicks a hip at him as he tries to cut off the siren at the control box.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The furtive cops are now supported by a spotlight-wielding helicopter. Dave is in the yard now. A speaker from the helicopter booms out.

SPEAKER (V.O.)
Hold it right there.

DAVE
This is my house! My house!

The neighbors are waking now. Lights flick on.

CLOSE SHOT - MATISSE

The dog stands in the shadows as if enjoying this.

ANGLE - DAVE

He is showing the cop his initials on the bathrobe.

COP
We'll look around anyway... you never know.

While the helicopter hovers and more cops arrive up the back alley, Dave stands in full consternation while Max videos him. The alarm man, LANCE, arrives.

DAVE
How many times is this going to happen, Lance?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LANCE
It could be the humidity... or some animal.

DAVE
Well, I'm turning the damn thing off until we find out what's wrong. You need an alarm for the alarm.

LANCE
You have the Econo System. If you had ordered the Moat System... that's more sophisticated, top of the line.

Suddenly we hear a YELL and a CURSE and see that Matisse is attacking a tall black man. The black man (ORVIS GOODNIGHT), record producer and tough guy, shakes the dog off as the police come running.

ORVIS
Orvis Goodnight... Volcano Records. Thelma and the Midnighters. Little Jam Boy Earl. I'm gonna sue you, Whiteman, for this damn dog.

DAVE
He is going to a damn dog therapist.

ORVIS
I'm gonna send him to dog heaven if he don't stop attacking me and my family. He just attacks black people. I know you trained him to attack schwarzes. And if he craps on my lawn one more time I'm gonna vigoro his ass.

DAVE
I give every year to the NAACP but this is it, Orvis. That dog attacks anybody except my wife. He almost neutered the gardener. Can we get that helicopter out of here?

MED. SHOT - HELICOPTER

The aircraft turns and finally leaves.

FULL SHOT - COP CARS

The cars back out of the driveway.

DAVE
Thanks, boys. Thanks. Sorry for the bother.

Max finishing his tape.

DAVE
(continuing)
Max, go to bed.

Dave is exhausted. It's been a trying evening.

HIS POV

The moon in the palm fronds.

EXT. FULL SHOT - DAY

Early morning comes to Beverly Hills. Jerry ambles up the alleyway that separates the large homes and it is evident that he is in despair. He glances into the back yards of the houses as he passes.

JERRY
Big bucks.

HIS POV

Fragments of the American dream yards. The turquoise of pools. Green tennis courts. Fragile gazebos.

JERRY
Big deal.

CLOSE SHOT - JERRY

He stops and looks into a yard that particularly appeals to his momentary state of mind.

HIS POV

Dave's back yard. A pile of smooth white stones for the new Japanese patio that Barbara is building. The blue water of the pool and two fruit laden grapefruit trees. The gate is cracked open.

INT. BEDROOM - FULL SHOT - DAY

Barbara meditates in her dressing room.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

Dave water picking his teeth while he punches his portable phone. Before he can talk a terrible RACKET begins as if a jet were taking off in the front yard.

FULL SHOT - FRONT YARD - DAY

Matisse has attacked MR. NAGAMICHI, the gardener, and in retaliation the gardener has turned on his blower which has blown Matisse and a cloud of leaves into the shrubbery. The frantic YELPS of the little dog bring a smile to the stoic face of Mr. Nagamichi.

INT. BEDROOM - MED. SHOT - DAVE

On the phone he talks to his plant manager in Tijuana.

DAVE
Bueno... bueno... muy bueno, Jesus. Well, I might come down to the plant before Christmas for the bonuses... wish everybody a happy holiday.

He is listening but something catches his eye in the yard below.

HIS POV

Jerry stands in the yard looking at the stones.

DAVE
(shouts)
Barbara, is that the new pool man?

Jerry begins to fill the ragged pockets of his pants and coat with the smooth white stones. When he is properly weighted down he shuffles to the diving board.

CLOSE SHOT - DAVE

He suddenly realizes what may be happening.

DAVE
Hey!

EXT. MED. SHOT - JERRY

Jerry doesn't hear but leaps into the water.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

Dave, wearing his shortie velvet fake Japanese robe and his Italian sandals, leaps down the stairs and bumps into Max on his way to the pool. He still holds the phone.

DAVE
Is that one of your weirdo friends? Call the cops, the paramedics... somebody.

EXT. FULL SHOT - DAY

Dave doesn't hesitate as he sees the body floating.

A beautiful leap to the rescue. Mr. Nagamichi blows into the yard.

MED. SHOT - BARBARA

She has realized something is wrong as she looks on.

BARBARA
Is that Geraldo? Or Nigel.

Carmen is alerted and the dog is swirling in angry circles.

FULL SHOT - POOL - DAY

Dave struggles with Jerry, pulling him to the pool stairs where Mr. Nagamichi arrives to help. Max has gotten his camera. The phone floats in the pool still TALKING IN SPANISH.

NAGAMICHI
CPR!!! CPR!!!

Dave pulls Jerry out and rolls the body over. His wet bum face looks even more wild in this wet state.

BARBARA
Don't, Dave... you might catch something. AIDS or plague or -- herpes. My God!

Dave snarls and then begins to give Jerry CPR. It is a quick fix because Jerry isn't that far gone. He coughs up some water and gags. The dog is strangely calm.

A handsome MAN with a tool kit and an English accent arrives unaware as he opens the back gate.

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CONTINUED:

NIGEL
It's just Nigel... got to take a look at your set valves. What the hell!

He stops.

DAVE
Carmen... get some blankets and some brandy.

JERRY
Brandy?!

Jerry coughs.

NAGAMICHI
He live.

The SIRENS come closer as the fire department, COPS and PARAMEDICS approach.

EXT. HOUSE - MED. SHOT

All the extra vehicles arrive just as Orvis Goodnight is coming home in his cream Rolls Royce. He stops to watch the activity.

ORVIS
The dog killed somebody. I told you.

FULL SHOT - BACK YARD

Jerry sitting up and still coughing as the Paramedics arrive and Carmen brings brandy and blankets.

JERRY
You got any Courvoisier?

DAVE
Drink it.
(to cop)
Must be in shock.

PARAMEDIC
How long was he in the water?

DAVE
Not long. But I gave him CPR.

CARMEN
You saved him. Muy macho.

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Please check my husband... he had his lips on this... man's lips.

PARAMEDIC
Good work.

DAVE
Feeling any better?

Jerry looks around.

JERRY
What gives, amigo?

DAVE
You almost drowned.

JERRY
I know that.

DAVE
Nobody dies in my back yard.

JERRY
If I'd known that... I'd gone somewhere else.

BARBARA
How did he get in the yard? I didn't hear the alarm. Got to call Lance, the alarm man.

The Paramedics checking.

BARBARA
(continuing)
And Brad, the pool man, to check the water for bacteria.

Carmen puts a blanket around Dave's shoulder.

DAVE
Thanks. Got some coffee? I knew that Red Cross class would pay off. I knew it. Poor guy.

BARBARA
He is just drunk and disgusting...

DAVE
He's a human being, Barb. Human being. Where's your sense of charity?

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Don't tell me about charity. I volunteer three days a week at the free clinic.

DAVE
Where is your liberal nature? I'm surprised at you. There but for the grace of God go you or I.

BARBARA
Not me. I could never sink so low. I'd kill myself first...

Realizing the irony, she retreats... Jerry smiles at her.

FULL SHOT - MINARET

The dust-covered workers building a minaret on the opposite side of Dave's house, look on. They say something in Persian.

WORKER
(sub-titled)
The infidels are quarrelling.

EXT. MED. SHOT - DAVE - DAY

He is feeling exhausted.

JERRY
I'm fine.

He tries to get up but the rocks and water keep him down.

DAVE
Just take it easy.

Jerry removing the rocks.

BARBARA
I have aerobics in fifteen minutes, and brunch with Sheila at eleven.

DAVE
You can go, sweetheart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Are you sure you're alright?
(as he nods)
You are a hero.
(she almost kisses him)
I'm such a scaredy cat.
(again, in a whisper)
Maybe the police could take him to the Rescue Mission or somewhere. He looks so pitiful.

DAVE
Don't worry. You can go.

A Cop leans in.

COP
I could arrest him for trespassing.

DAVE
Then what?

COP
Back on the street and maybe the second time he'll get it right. Sometimes I think these guys would be better off dead. Nobody gives a damn.

Barbara heading to her Mercedes. She carries her gym wear.

EXT. MED. SHOT - JERRY

He has unloaded the final rocks and looks around at the shrinking crowd.

ANGLE - DAVE

He nods and approaches Jerry. He looks at the scuzzy wet failed victim just as Matisse runs up.

DAVE
Mat... Mat.

Instead of attacking, Matisse walks to Jerry.

JERRY
How are you, little amigo?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Matisse licks his face. Dave is surprised.

DAVE
Can you stand up?

JERRY
Sure.

But he is weak.

DAVE
What's your name?

JERRY
Esther Williams.

DAVE
I'm Dave Whiteman.

JERRY
This your place?

DAVE
Yeah.

JERRY
Some spread. You a gangster?

DAVE
I make coat hangers.

Jerry laughs. Everyone has cleared out except for Carmen, the dog and the filming Max.

Nagamichi starts his blower again.

JERRY
Jerry M. Baskins.

DAVE
What's the M for?

JERRY
Mistake... Mountbatten.

Carmen and Dave lead Jerry into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - FULL SHOT - DAY

Jerry is a little weak from the ordeal.

DAVE
You need to get out of those clothes... Carmen, por favor...

CONTINUED:

Carmen goes to get clothes.

DAVE
(continuing)
We're about the same size. How about some coffee?

He holds up a red shirt and some khaki pants just from the dryer.

DAVE
I give these clothes to the Midnight Mission anyway... might as well cut out the middle man.

JERRY
I don't look so good in red. Got something in blue?

Dave smiles at Carmen and she tosses him a blue shirt.

CARMEN
It's brand new.

DAVE
So...

JERRY
(looking at tag)
Brooks Brothers. I used to shop there.

Suddenly Jerry stands and drops his ragged pants to the floor. Carmen shrieks at his equally ragged underwear.

CARMEN
Jesus Cristo.

DAVE
Cream in your coffee?

JERRY
No. Black.

Carmen uses a mop handle to pick up his old pants and shirt and underwear.

JERRY
(continuing)
Don't throw them out, amiga.

He is dressing in his new clothes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARMEN
Dave... I mean, Mr. Whiteman...

DAVE
Put them in the washer.

JERRY
(checking the waistline)
You could lose a few pounds... Dave.

DAVE
Would you like something to eat?

JERRY
What you got?

DAVE
We have turkey... dressing... some cranberry sauce... left over from Thanksgiving.

JERRY
Got any white meat?

Carmen mumbling to herself about this strange situation as she starts the washing machine.

MED. SHOT - DINING ROOM - DAY

Dave and Jerry are sitting at opposite ends of the table. Jerry is methodically going through the food on the table.

DAVE
Feeling better?

JERRY
Who made this dressing?

DAVE
My mother.

JERRY
Too much onion for me.

DAVE
You could at least say thank you.

JERRY
For what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
For the food.

JERRY
Thanks.

DAVE
For saving your life.

JERRY
I didn't ask for that.

DAVE
You could be dead now... instead than eating turkey.

He shrugs.

JERRY
Think my clothes are dry?

DAVE
You can keep what you got on.

JERRY
You might ask me to thank you again.

Dave laughs.

DAVE
You're tough.

Jerry cleans his plate.

DAVE
(continuing)
How did you get to this moment, Jerry? How did you get this... can I used the word... "low?" I mean, you're obviously an intelligent guy.

A long pause. A deep breath.

JERRY
Well, I was in love and it ended. I took it pretty bad. I was teaching acting.

DAVE
Aahh! Show business. They're all nuts.

CONTINUED:

JERRY
I'd been pretty active politically in the sixties, but I started acting. It seemed natural. I was in love with a girl in the class and she walked out on me and I cracked. Then I lost the job. One thing led to another. The girl was really beautiful. Really one in a million... she became very successful. You might know her.

DAVE
Who?

JERRY
Linda Evans.

DAVE
On TV?

CARMEN
Dynasty!

JERRY
Got some more cranberry sauce?

Carmen jumps.

JERRY
(continuing)
It was before Dynasty... between Big Valley and Dynasty... I just got low after we broke up and for about a year I was in bad shape... but that didn't do it really. I did drink a lot... use some drugs ... but then my sister... my younger sister... died from leukemia. That did it. We were real close... because we were orphaned so young. So I just lost my... incentive... I didn't care what happened to me. And I learned to survive on the street.

A long silence.

DAVE
I'm sorry.

JERRY
Well, I didn't mean to bring you down.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
I'm just thinking.

JERRY
Well, time for me to hit the road.

Jerry rises.

DAVE
Where are you going to go?

JERRY
I don't know.

DAVE
Are you going to try your stunt again?

JERRY
That's a personal question.

DAVE
Where are you going to sleep?

JERRY
I don't know.

DAVE
Where'd you sleep last night?

JERRY
In the park.

Jerry unsteadily rises.

JERRY
(continuing)
Mind if I take one of these? Don't want the scurvy, eh.

He grabs a grapefruit.

DAVE
Jerry, you sure you're alright?

JERRY
Yeah.

Matisse comes easing up, a changed dog.

DAVE
You could stay if you want for a couple of days... until you get straightened out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
Stay here?

DAVE
Yeah... you could stay out in the cabana... there's a bed in there.

MED. SHOT - CARMEN

She slaps her head with dismay.

EXT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Barbara exits the Mercedes with some bags from Neiman-Marcus and Gumps.

INT. STUDY - FULL SHOT - DAY

Dave studies some business in the study. Barbara enters.

BARBARA
Did the pool man come?

DAVE
I don't think so. But the sprinklers are going crazy.

BARBARA
By the way, honey, that was a very brave thing you did today. I told all the girls in class. What happened to that poor guy?

DAVE
He is outside by the pool.

BARBARA
(shock)
What?

DAVE
He might be in the jacuzzi.

BARBARA
He is still here?

DAVE
Yes.

BARBARA
What's the emergency number, 911?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
I invited him to stay a couple of days.

BARBARA
No.

She has to sit down and mantra a bit to try and control her breathing.

DAVE
The poor guy slept in the park last night.

BARBARA
He is staying here.

DAVE
In the cabana.

BARBARA
I am calling Seymour to come over. I think you need immediate treatment.

DAVE
Shrinks don't make house calls.

BARBARA
He owes me this.

She is dialing and looking out the window. An answering machine comes on.

HER POV

She sees Jerry in the garden with Matisse.

DAVE (O.S.)
He dated Linda Evans.

MACHINE (V.O.)
This is Dr. Seymour Glass... Is this really an emergency, because I am rafting on the Colorado.

MED. SHOT - BARBARA

She staggers and hangs up.

BARBARA
How long have we been married?

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Twenty-four years.

BARBARA
Well in all those twenty-four years this is the craziest thing you have ever done. You don't know anything about the man. He is a bum, a derelict.

DAVE
How about our responsibility to our fellow man?

BARBARA
I mean the bum could steal everything...

DAVE
... His name is Jerry.

BARBARA
... and then murder us in our sleep. Is that what you want? Another Manson murder...

DAVE
Look, Matisse loves him.

BARBARA
That should be a clue right there, Dave. Matisse loves no one.

DAVE
Look for yourself.

EXT. FULL SHOT - DAY

Jerry is teaching a dutiful Matisse new and exotic tricks. Jerry with a hand gesture commands the dog and Matisse does a back flip and then takes a submissive position at Jerry's feet.

CLOSE SHOT - DAVE AND BARBARA

She is shocked and momentarily speechless. Dave smiles.

BARBARA
He is going to give that dog fleas.

She exits with a gasp.

EXT. HOUSE - FULL MOON

INT. CABANA - FULL SHOT

Jerry tosses and turns on the uncomfortable bed. He sits up scratching at his unruly mane and stepping outside to the moonlit patio. Nothing stirs.

MED. SHOT - CARMEN

She lies in the darkness of her room. She is waiting for Dave.

STAIRS - MED. SHOT - DAVE

He sneaks slowly down the stairs.

INT. ROOM - MED. SHOT - NIGHT

Max is loading video tape into his camera.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

He stops abruptly. The dog is lying in his path. He tries to sneak by, but, just as he steps over, Matisse looks up. Instead of barking and snapping the dog miraculously goes back to his nap. Dave sighs with surprise and relief.

MED. SHOT - CARMEN

She makes her way to the pantry. She closes the door and she sprinkles some jasmine petals on the floor, crushing one final petal against her throat.

INT. KITCHEN - DAVE

He moves through the darkened kitchen, his breath getting heavier as he heads for the pantry.

DAVE
You!

Dave leaps up in fright and falls back from the large, equally surprised form on the floor. He flicks on the light. Jerry smiles up at him.

JERRY
Excuse me, amigo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
God... you scared me.

JERRY
Can't sleep on that bed.

DAVE
Too hard?

JERRY
Too soft. I'm used to the sidewalk.

INT. PANTRY - MED. SHOT - CARMEN

She sighs from disappointment as she slouches on the floor.

MED. SHOT - DAVE, JERRY

Dave opens the refrigerator.

DAVE
Cream cheese...? How about a bagel?

JERRY
Sure.

DAVE
I get these middle of the night hungers... my stomach starts growling... You know.

JERRY
I can almost remember.

MED. SHOT - DAVE AND JERRY

Dave hands Jerry the bagel drenched with cream cheese.

JERRY
Haven't had one of these since my Brooklyn days.

DAVE
You from Brooklyn?

JERRY
Flatbush Avenue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
No kidding. I grew up around Ebbets Field.

JERRY
I loved baseball then.

DAVE
Yeah... the Duke.

JERRY
No... my favorite was Roy Campanella. And Carl Erskine... tough nut.

DAVE
Ralph Branca... and Pete Reiser.

JERRY
Then they moved the team.

DAVE
I cried.

JERRY
It was a great cultural lesson, amigo. There is no loyalty except to the dollar.

DAVE
How long have you been on the street?

JERRY
A couple of years.

DAVE
Is it tough?

JERRY
You get used to it. It's a skill.

DAVE
Got any family?

JERRY
Nobody that acknowledges me.

DAVE
Another bagel?

JERRY
(reluctant)
Well... Naw.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Here, eat.

Jerry grabs the bagel and wolfs it in two bites.

DAVE
(continuing)
Ever get tired of the street... do you ever try to get a job and get straight?

Jerry gives Dave a long, sweet but baleful look as he pushes the final morsels of the creamed cheese from his beard into his mouth.

JERRY
Let's face it, Dave. I'm one of life's losers. I played the game and I lost. You get tired of playing a losing game.

DAVE
You just need a little luck. I mean... shoot, I was selling lingerie from my Olds and if I hadn't got money from my Uncle Maury and if I hadn't gone into a bar in New Jersey at the right time... I would have never got the hanger business going. I was in the right place at the right time and then all the motels were built. The rest is history.

A moment of silence as Barbara sneaks into the room. She wields a golf club and a hair dryer as weapons.

BARBARA
God... I didn't know what had happened.

CLOSE SHOT - CARMEN

She is sweating now.

MED. SHOT - JERRY

He senses that Barbara is ill at ease with him.

BARBARA
I heard noises and I thought a burglar was loose in the house!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Then we would have heard the alarm.

BARBARA
They fix it?

DAVE
So they say.

JERRY
You can't trust machines.

BARBARA
Please... don't drop food on the floor and not pick it up.

CARMEN
And wipe your foot before you come in the house to make a mess.

All are surprised by her sudden appearance from the pantry.

CARMEN
(continuing)
I thought I heard a rat.

BARBARA
Maybe that's what I heard.

DAVE
We got a lot of rats in Beverly Hills.

JERRY
Rats are everywhere.

EXT. MED. SHOT - MAX

He has filmed the entire scene.

INT. MED. SHOT - BARBARA - NIGHT

Jerry finishes another bagel.

BARBARA
(still confused but she leans over to Dave and whispers)
I'd like to talk to... Jerry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Well, it's back to bed for me.

Dave winks and leaves. So does Carmen throwing a longing look at Dave.

BARBARA
(he looks up)
Jerry, I want to apologize for how I've behaved. You have to know I objected to you staying here. I mean your appearance scares me. If you could just wash up... cut your hair and your beard it would make it easier for me. I realize this is superficial and I know you probably don't have money for a barber but Dave will take care of that. Anyway, I know that underneath all that... you're a person with feelings and I want you to know I am trying to overcome my middle-class prejudices. As my teacher, Yogi Bashwam says... we are part of the same oneness... the same electric universal tide... we flow into and out of everything.
(pause)
As a human being I respect you and I hope you understand me.

Jerry cuts a fart that is somewhere near a middle C and profound in its length and clarity. Barbara turns and runs away. Jerry shows no reaction.

INT. MED. SHOT - MAX - NIGHT

From his hiding place, Max falls into paroxyoms of stifled laughter.

EXT. HOUSE - MED. SHOT - MORNING

INT. KITCHEN - FULL SHOT - DAVE

Carmen pours his coffee.

CARMEN
I will not speak about anything.

DAVE
Good.

CONTINUED:

CARMEN
I feel so... terrible. I missed you.

DAVE
Is it still fun.

CARMEN
Yes...

DAVE
We must slow down.

Mr. Nagamichi enters.

NAGAMICHI
Mr. Whiteman, there is a bum in the begonias.

DAVE
It's not a bum, Mr. Nagamichi. It's Jerry.

NAGAMICHI
Forgive me. There is a Jerry in the begonias. May I water him?

DAVE
Sure.

EXT. FULL SHOT - DAY

Mr. Nagamichi sprays a plume of water which finally arouses Jerry. He wakes like a sleeping lion from the bushes, shaking his head and smiling up at the warming sun.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS STREET - ROLLS ROYCE - DAY

Dave and Jerry driving. Dave at the wheel.

DAVE
You ever ride in a Rolls?

JERRY
I had one when I lived in London.

DAVE
You lived in London?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
When I went to graduate school. But I didn't have a phone in the car.

DAVE
This is the new cellular job. Watch this.

Dave flicks the phone on and punches a button. We hear the number being dialed. There is a microphone next to Dave's side of the car for him to speak into.

BARBARA (V.O.)
Hello?

DAVE
Hi, kiddo. I'm on my way to the barbers to get Jerry a haircut.

BARBARA (V.O.)
I know. You just left the house.

DAVE
See you later, alligator.

He hangs up, pleased. They come to a stop for a light. Another Rolls, identical in all ways to Dave's, stops next to them. The driver is ORVIS, the neighbor. Huge SOUND OF SOUL MUSIC from his car.

ORVIS
Morning, Dave.

DAVE
Morning, Orvis.

INT. MAURICE'S HAIR SALON

About fifteen Beverly Hills women getting their hair done. Hair stylists all over the place. The women turn to look as Dave and Jerry enter. Dave spots Maurice himself and takes Jerry over. Maurice is wearing a safari outfit complete with Safari hat. He has a French accent and is tres gay.

MAURICE
Ah, David. How nice to see you. And this is the gentleman you mentioned.

DAVE
Jerry, this is Maurice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAURICE
Charming! You have the look of ze vagabond, monsieur. Very chic.

DAVE
Clean him up, okay.

MAURICE
(touching Jerry's hair)
What do we 'ave zere, ze mocking-bird? ... ze pigeons... we have to sterilize everyzing... well, we can do ze Bob... ze layered bob... ze wedge... ze shag... ze coup sauvage...

JERRY
Just cut it, Maurice, okay.

EXT. OFFICE - FULL SHOT - DAY

Dave and a fresh looking Jerry ride a glass elevator to the top of a seven story office building. Jerry may look cleaner but he still has the gait and slouch of a bum.

INT. OFFICE - MED. SHOT - DAY

A neat office. Dave smiles to his secretary DORIS, a woman of tacky but efficient style.

DORIS
Good morning.

DAVE
Doris, this is my friend Mr. Baskin.

DORIS
How do you do, Mr. Baskin. Could I get you some coffee... tea.

JERRY
Coffee... black...

DORIS
Jesus called from Tijuana. He said they want three days off for Christmas.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Give it to 'em! They're driving me crazy.

Jerry, as if by mistake, sits at Dave's desk under the blue stuffed carcass of a medium sailfish.

JERRY
Nice.

DAVE
Caught that bastard in Cabo. That was my last real vacation.

Jerry looks at a plaque with the different kinds of hangers the company has made. A large sign reads "DAVEBAR HANGERS."

DAVE
(continuing)
Want a free sample?

JERRY
Don't have much use for hangers.

DAVE
That's the baby that revolutionized the business. Cut down the hotel thefts. Every other company ignored the idea. They were happy people were ripping off their hangers. More sales. But you would be amazed how much that was costing per year. We jumped in and now we have 63 percent of the business.

JERRY
I never would have thought of something like that.

DAVE
(as the coffee comes)
I'm negotiating with the Chinese now. We're having a party New Years for the Trade Minister... Mr. Chao and his group, and we hope to close... well, the biggest deal I can think of. Imagine eight hundred million Chinese... eventually... ten or twenty million coat hangers... minimum. The Chinese are neat. Very neat.
(pause)
Hey, let's grab some lunch.

EXT. STREET - FULL SHOT - IVY RESTAURANT

A chic show biz, high finance crowd at nouvelle cuisine outdoor cafe. Dave and Jerry are receiving their order; a mustard chicken on a bed of three carrot pieces and some squash.

JERRY
Is that it?

DAVE
Chicken a la Metz.

JERRY
(mumbling)
I'd like to show you some garbage a la Metz.

DAVE
This is the new in-place. Show business. My wife comes here.

ANDRE, the head waiter, signaling Dave over Jerry's shoulder.

DAVE
(continuing)
Reminds me I need to call the house.

Jerry smiles. Dave leaves.

CLOSE SHOT - ANDRE, DAVE

Andre listening attentively.

DAVE
He's a good friend of mine.

ANDRE
But he keeps removing his shoes... some other customers are complaining, Dave.

DAVE
(gives Andre a twenty)
In his country, it's customary to remove your shoes at lunch. I got to make a phone call, Andre.

NEW ANGLE - RESTAURANT

A beautiful girl walks in with her tits hanging out of a linen jersey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She looks at Jerry as if she knows him. Jerry winks.

GIRL
Didn't I see you at the Cannes film festival?

JERRY
Sure.

GIRL
You were with Susan Sarandon... something to do with Nicarauga. Are you a Sandanista?

JERRY
No. I'm a novelist.

GIRL
I know now... you're Sandy Kinney's boyfriend... what's your name?

JERRY
Jerry F. Baskin.

GIRL
That's right. Roxanne... Philobosian.

She shakes his hand. He licks her fingers. She tries not to believe it.

JERRY
My pleasure.

GIRL
I'm at Fox now. Call me if you have any story ideas. We're really looking. Here's my card.

JERRY
I don't have a card.

GIRL
That's okay. It is a little pretentious. Call me. Say hello to Sandy. Ta.

Jerry looks at the card and then up as another BUM slides by the cafe. He squints into the sunlight.

JERRY
Al. Al!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The bum, a black man wearing a baseball hat stops as if hearing voices.

JERRY
(continuing)
Al... it's me, Jerry.

Al looks through red eyes and spies Jerry. Al is totally filthy. The patrons gasp as he comes into the cafe.

AL
Jerry... hey...

Al laughs as Jerry ushers him to the table.

AL
(continuing)
You sure it's okay?

JERRY
Sure. I got a friend that practically owns the place.

Al sits down.

AL
You sure look different. I hardly recognize you.

JERRY
The hair... and the beard.

AL
Yeah... Christ, I thought I was hearing voices back there.

People are glaring. They are getting uncomfortable. Dave returns.

DAVE
Who is this?

JERRY
A pal of mine... Al. Dave.

DAVE
You want to eat?

AL
No thanks.

DAVE
You want a drink?

CONTINUED:

AL
This is one of my non-drinking days.

JERRY
We were down at the Mission together.

AL
Remember Red Turner... the redheaded guy with the glasses? He got mugged real bad. He's in County Hospital.

A busboy drops a half-eaten roll as he passes and Al grabs it and swoops it into his mouth without a pause.

JERRY
Red's pretty old.

DAVE
Coffee?

Al says no with a shake of the head. But stoops to pick up a fallen asparagus and old cigar.

DAVE
(continuing)
Have a sandwich.

AL
(shakes his head)
Well, it was good to see you. Sitting pretty. Yeah. Got to go.

He rises.

JERRY
See you.

The friends part quickly and without fanfare.

DAVE
Where's he going?

JERRY
He has his schedule.

DAVE
Some of these street guys seem a little crazy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
Well, a lot of the folks on the street are having a conversation with someone you'll never meet.

DAVE
... How about some Chocolate Mousse? It's only thirty-five bucks a portion.

EXT. YARD - FULL SHOT - DAY

The Japanese gardener is cranking up. Again he has to blow Matisse away.

EXT. BARBARA - MED. SHOT - DAY

Barbara with GERALDO, a fifty-year-old gay landscaper, with whom she is discussing her new waterfall.

BARBARA
It has to be the right amount of water, Geraldo.

GERALDO
Absolutely. We want a waterfall that will make a statement.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAY

Matisse stares straight ahead. He doesn't even look at the plate of food in front of him. DR. HIMMELMAN, an Austrian dog psychologist with an earring, tries to stare the dog down.

HIMMELMAN
Matisse, what a pretty dog.

His voice is soothing if Germanic. But the dog does nothing and shows no movement on the food. He GROWLS as a warning.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DOOR

Dave and Jerry at the door.

BARBARA
Dave, Dave...

DAVE
What is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Dr. Himmelman is here.

DAVE
Did the dog bite the colored guy??

BARBARA
You know Matisse hasn't eaten in three days.

DAVE
Must have been talking to Jenny.

Himmelman bursts from the room with the dish of uneaten food and smiles at the throng.

HIMMELMAN
The dog is disturbed... something is bothering him. He is very angry.

DAVE
The dog is always angry.

HIMMELMAN
(scolding)
You would be surprised how the tone of your voice affects animals. Has anything changed recently in the dog's life or living arrangements?

BARBARA
(indicates Jerry)
We have a house guest.

HIMMELMAN
Well, that explains it. This is very traumatic for the doggie. New faces.

BARBARA
(whisper)
How about for me?

HIMMELMAN
Give it a day. Deny all food until the evening. Then call me. But I can't promise. How long are you staying?

Jerry shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
He is staying as long as he likes and if the doggie doesn't like it he can... find new circumstances.

HIMMELMAN
The dog senses your hostility. It's awful. You soil its weltanschaung. Now you have to go and caress the dog and reassure him.

DAVE
What?

BARBARA
(angry)
Dave.

DAVE
The dog is running this house.

Reluctantly Dave approaches the diffident Matisse.

HIMMELMAN
Good. Caress. Speak.

DAVE
What a nice dog. Good dog.

The dog seems to enjoy humiliating Dave and Himmelman smiles.

DAVE
(continuing)
You putz.

NEW ANGLE - HIMMELMAN

On the way out, Himmelman leans to Barbara.

HIMMELMAN
As soon as he goes, dear, the dog will be ravenous.

EXT. YARD - DAVE, JERRY

They are in the back yard. Dave muttering.

DAVE
A dog shrink... from Vienna yet. What a world. What do you think of that?

CONTINUED:

JERRY
Got to spend your money on something.

Jerry looks up and smiles.

HIS POV

A dark-haired... almond-eyed BOY of fifteen looks over the fence. He looks like a Keane drawing, plaintive and forlorn.

JERRY
Hello...

The boy keeps looking.

JERRY
(continuing)
Pretty day.

BOY
Hello. Thank you.

JERRY
Want a grapefruit?

Finally the boy smiles and slips away behind his wall.

DAVE
Iranian. They just moved in. He could be the Shah's illegitimate son for all I know... the Peacock Prince. They are building a minaret. At first, I thought it was a TV tower or something. I got to go to the office, so why don't you try the Jacuzzi. Nobody ever uses it. It's dying from disuse.

MED. SHOT - JACUZZI - JERRY

He figures out how it works and plops into the water.

FULL SHOT - BARBARA

She is mixing her macrobiotic glop in the blender. Matisse tries to attack the Sparklettes' man who drops off water. When Jerry enters, dripping, Matisse calms down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
Hello. What's that stuff?

BARBARA
Lunch.

JERRY
I was listening about the dog. I might be able to help.

BARBARA
I wish you could. Himmelman seems to think you're the cause.

JERRY
Could be.

BARBARA
But Matisse has always been a picky eater. I try everything. I've bought every kind of dog food known to Western world.

JERRY
Where is it?

BARBARA
In the cupboard... by the freezer.

Jerry goes to the cupboard and opens it. He sees thirty brands of dog food. There are dry foods and canned and hermetically sealed foods. Matisse is watching. Jerry puts the food out and places it on the kitchen table.

JERRY
You don't mind.

BARBARA
No.

JERRY
You see this dog... thinks it's a person. It doesn't have dog friends or family. It wants to eat what people eat. Except maybe for that stuff which you're eating. Because taste is important. Now Mighty Dog is pretty good. Gourmet Pup is too salty.

He opens a can.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
How do you know?

JERRY
I've eaten it.

Barbara winces but her stuff looks worse. Jerry smells the can.

JERRY
(continuing)
It's real nutritious. People take better care of their dogs than themselves. I've stolen food from dogs out of their bowls. There was many a day when I wished I had a plate of Puppy Chow to munch on.

He tastes the spoon. Matisse alerts.

BARBARA
Are you going to eat it?

JERRY
Sure. I haven't had lunch. But I'm going to mix my special recipe.

He concocts a mixture of dry and canned food. Barbara is getting sick for some odd reason since her lunch looks and smells worse. Jerry takes two spoonfuls of his stew and pronounces it excellent. He sets the dish on the floor and gets on his hands and knees.

JERRY
(continuing)
Now that's good. One third Mighty Dog... a third Kal Kan liver with some Puppy Chow for texture... crunchiness... got pepper...

Jerry ignores Matisse while emptying his dish. Matisse jumps for the food like a ravenous lion. Barbara is suitably astonished. Jerry and Matisse eat side by side.

BARBARA

She is astonished, repelled and pleased.

FULL SHOT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Barbara still thinking on the day. Dave nods.

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
He ate it like it was pate from Michel Richard.

DAVE
Did I tell you?

BARBARA
What?

DAVE
He has a wisdom.

BARBARA
I still don't trust him.

Dave reaches for her under the covers. She pulls away.

EXT. GARDEN - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

Jerry, unable to sleep on this moonlit night comes into the garden and looks around. Matisse SNORES in the corner. Jerry opens his fly and begins pissing into the flower beds. It's a long, easy piss as he makes a loop in the air and then tries for a long distance shoot. Finishing with a flourish, he shakes his dick and pulls a saved cigarette from his shirt pocket. He is getting comfortable in this place. He lights up with a wooden match and steps to the back gate from which he entered this world. One smoke ring is all that he gets when all hell breaks loose.

FULL SHOT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The ALARM SCREAMS OUT interrupting Dave and Carmen in mid-coitus. He falls from the pantry pulling up his pajamas. Carmen, cursing under her breath, smoothes her skirt.

INT. ROOM - MED. SHOT - MAX

The silent Max bolts up in his bed and reaches for his camera as the helicopter comes overhead.

FULL SHOT - JERRY

He is still blowing smoke rings as the cops arrive. He tries to wave off the helicopter spotlight. A voice booms out of the heavens like a god.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPEAKER
Hold it right there, asshole.

JERRY
I'm not going anywhere... asshole.

A COP with a shotgun jumps in his face only to be attacked by Matisse. Another Cop holds his attack dog on the leash as it goes for Matisse. The helicopter just misses the minaret. Max is filming it all.

COP
Hands over your head. Right now.

Jerry slowly lifts his hands and the officer turns him around to frisk him.

The helicopter is waking the neighborhood and we hear the POP AND CRACKLE OF THE RADIOS. More cop units arrive as Orvis appears on the fence.

ORVIS
You don't come like this when I call you. No sir. One little car... twenty minutes late. But let one black man stop to tie his shoe... all hell breaks loose. You ought to kill that dog while you're here. I've complained but nothing. And I know why. I'm black. Blacks ain't supposed to live in Beverly Hills... well, I'm not moving, understand... In fact, I'm bringing more of my brothers in here to loosen this place up. Understand?

No one is listening. Now Dave comes stumbling from the house.

DAVE
Officer. He's staying here.

COP
Doesn't have any I.D... no driver's... no social security... nothing...

DAVE
You don't have any I.D.?

JERRY
I don't keep it on me. People roll you for it. I keep it all at the Mission.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
The Mission?

COP
(to fellow officer)
He knows the guy.

JERRY
The Rescue Mission downtown. They take your mail... hold stuff for you.

DAVE
Just like American Express in Europe.

COP
You got to work on this alarm system.

Max is laughing behind his viewfinder.

EXT. FREEWAY - MED. SHOT - ROLLS - DAY

Dave and Jerry riding down the Hollywood Freeway to downtown.

MED. SHOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Dave and Jerry exit the car. They are eyed with suspicion as they head for the Mission doorway.

DAVE
... You stay here much?

JERRY
When I'm hard up for clothes or a shower. Mostly I like to stay by myself. But they're nice folks here.

INT. MISSION - FULL SHOT

Downstairs to the clothes and shower area.

DAVE
I think this is where Barb brings our old clothes.

JERRY
We get some pretty fancy items down here.

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Those could be my old pants.

Men are checking in and showering. A man is trying on some pants. Dave is trying not to be shocked at the despair he sees.

FULL SHOT - DESK - DAY

Jerry waits in line to pick up his mail and/or his papers. Dave looks around him. A MAN comes up to him.

MAN
You have to wait on line for a number if you want to spend the night.

JERRY
He's with me, Willie.

MED. SHOT - DAVE, JERRY

Dave is fascinated by the lifestyle in the Mission.

JERRY
There's two more missions down the street... lot of regulars.

Jerry gets to the head of the line. BARRY behind desk knows him.

BARRY
Jerry... I got your packet here. You checking in for awhile?

JERRY
No. Do I have any mail?

BARRY
(checking)
Book of the Month Club.

They both laugh.

JERRY
Thanks for holding this.

BARRY
Sure. Did you hear about Red Turner? He caught a cab.

JERRY
Too bad.

Jerry opens his packet and finds his I.D.'s. Dave studying the men.

FULL SHOT - STREET - ROLLS - DAY

Jerry is now driving the car and Dave is in the passenger seat enjoying himself.

DAVE
I don't know how you can take that life. It's pretty depressing.

JERRY
Hey. The Mission is the best side of it.

DAVE
I can see now why you jumped in my pool.

JERRY
... What kind of mileage you get with this baby?

Dave motions Jerry to exit.

FULL SHOT - CAR WASH - DAY

A fancy California car wash which looks like a steak house and gift shop.

ANGLE - JERRY, DAVE

They watch the car being soaped.

JERRY
You're pretty rich aren't you, Dave?

DAVE
Well, the last six or seven years I've been real comfortable but up until then it was a struggle. Lots of work.

JERRY
I never thought that the hanger business was so good but I never hang up clothes anyway.

DAVE
This car wash is mine. I have three more. Covina. South Bay. Encino.

JERRY
Lots of things to think about, amigo. Lots of things to worry you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dave nods as the car is ready. He tips the Worker drying the car off.

JERRY
(continuing)
You tip too big.

FULL SHOT - FREEWAY - AFTERNOON

They are riding now, musing and anticipating. They are eating two Big Macs.

DAVE
I really like Big Macs... fries. If Barbara saw this, she would flip out. I swear she is turning yellow from those health foods.

JERRY
Where to?

DAVE
I don't know. Home? Some days you feel like just driving on. You just want to take off.

JERRY
So why not?

DAVE
Easy for you to say.

JERRY
Haven't you ever done anything... or gone anywhere just for the hell of it?

DAVE
Who'll run my business? Who'll pay my bills?

JERRY
You're putting me on, Dave.

DAVE
You know how much I spend a month? You know what my nut is?

JERRY
Bullshit! You got enough dough now to last ten lifetimes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
It's easy for you to talk. You're a bum... I'm sorry, Jerry.

JERRY
For what? I am a bum. But I'm free. Nobody tells Jerry R. Baskin what to do.

DAVE
... I thought it was Jerry M. Baskin.

JERRY
I change my name whenever I want to.

DAVE
(smiles)
Hey, Jerry. Anybody can be a bum. It's putting in the hours at the job that takes balls.

JERRY
I thought you said being a bum was depressing.

DAVE
It is. But I've done a lot of shitty things in my lifetime.

JERRY
You wouldn't last half an hour as a bum.

DAVE
I'm one tough cookie, Mr. Jerry R. Baskin. Never forget it.

EXT. VENICE BEACH WALKWAY

Roller skaters, tourists, old folks... and lots of bums...

JERRY

eating an ice cream cone... enjoying what he sees.

ANGLE ON DAVE

Dave is filthy... the clothes we saw earlier on him (in the car) are torn and dirty... he has no shoes on... his hand is out for money...

NICE COUPLE

Strolling. Dave comes up to them.

DAVE
(politely)
Hello. Could you spare some change?

NICE COUPLE MAN
Beat it.

JERRY

chokes with laughter.

ANGLE

Dave goes up to OLDER MAN.

DAVE
Hello. Could you spare some change?

OLDER MAN
Why don't you get a job?

Jerry joins Dave.

JERRY
Let me show you how, Dave.

Jerry goes up to an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN.

JERRY
(continuing; tough)
Gimme a dollar for a drink!

Woman takes out a dollar.

WOMAN
At least you're honest.

She gives Jerry the buck and leaves.

Dave goes up to another attractive WOMAN.

DAVE
Gimme a dollar for a drink!

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN
Fuck off!

CONTINUED:

JERRY
You got to know how to read the clientele, Dave. Not so easy is it?

They stroll. Jerry is clean and Dave looks like a bum.

DAVE
I'll get the hang of it.

Jerry spots someone he knows.

JERRY
Hey, Tom Tom!

TOM TOM is an Indian wino and an old pal of Jerry's. He is drinking from a bottle of wine and is really loaded.

TOM TOM
Hey, Jerry.
(they slap hands in high fives)
How you been, professor?

JERRY
... Hey, Tom Tom, this is my friend, Dave.

DAVE
Pleased to meet you.

TOM TOM
(laughs)
You want a drink, White Man?

DAVE
How'd you know my name?

Dave takes the bottle, starts to wipe off the mouth of it, looks at Jerry, thinks better of it and takes a long sip.

JERRY
Hey, leave some for the rest of the tribe.

INT. THE HOUSE - NIGHT

Barbara is wearing a hot mask. She bolts upright as the PHONE RINGS. Carmen fluffs her pillows and listens intently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Hello?... Oh, Dave. Are you alright? What happened? I called Sidney and Pearl and your parents.

EXT. VENICE BEACH PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

Dave is drunk.

DAVE
It's okay, Barbara... I'm at the beach with Jerry. I'm spending the night.

INT. BEDROOM

BARBARA
Dave? Are you drunk?

PHONE BOOTH

DAVE
I'm at the beach with Jerry and Tom Tom and Dirty Ed and Sweetie. See ya' manana.

He hangs up.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

BARBARA
I knew something was wrong with that bum.

CARMEN
Yo tambien.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Dave is loaded and so is Jerry. Tom Tom and some of their pals. PAT, DIRTY ED and SWEETIE, a lady bum of great and abiding dirt. They have built a fire and are sitting on the beach. Each with their own pile of ragged belongings... they finish singing "See the Pyramids Along the Nile."

DAVE
... that was nice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SWEETIE
You got a lovely voice, Dave. You should have been a singer.

DAVE
Thank you, Sweetie... Hey, is that your real name, Sweetie?

SWEETIE
Yes, sir. When I was born my mother said, "Isn't she a sweetie?" And that's what they named me...

JERRY
Hey, Tom Tom, what's your real name?

TOM TOM
Harold White Feather.

DAVE
That's a beautiful name.

TOM TOM
I have an Indian name, too.
(says it in Navajo)
It means "He Who Runs With the Speed of the Deer."

DAVE
(takes a drink)
... maybe I should change my name.

JERRY
To what?

DAVE
He Who Is Never Without His American Express Card.

Even Jerry smiles.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Barbara is on the phone. She is frantic. Carmen sits next to her, weeping. Max is videotaping the scene, as usual.

BARBARA
Officer, he has never ever done anything like this. Never!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA (CONT'D)
You can ask my maid!... I think he was kidnapped by this bum named Jerry. I am willing to pay any amount of ransom.

BEACH - NIGHT

Most of the bums are asleep now, but Dave and Jerry are still awake... They are both loaded and kind of happy.

DAVE
... This is the most comfortable bed I've slept on in years.

JERRY
Speaking of beds... how long you been waltzing Carmen?

DAVE
What are you talking about?

JERRY
Hey, it's okay by me. She's a hot little frijolita... and Barb is a handsome woman, too.

DAVE
Look, I've been married twenty-four years now and Carmen is cute and hot and there she is... you ever been married?

JERRY
Twice.

DAVE
... you get to the horse latitudes every now and then.... dead calm in the water and you have to juice things up a little...

JERRY
A little hot sauce.

DAVE
I think Barbara should have a fling, too... I think it would get her going again. I do love her, you know.

JERRY
I believe you, Dave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Hey, Jerry. On the emmis... were you really married twice?

JERRY
Naw. I was just kidding.

DAVE
Were you really an actor?

Jerry looks at Dave in the flickering light of the dying fire... CAMERA PANS over the sleeping bodies of the bums as Jerry speaks.

JERRY
(beautifully)
"... What a piece of work is a man! How noble is reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust?"

Dave and Jerry look at each other. They go to sleep.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS HOUSE - MORNING

Orvis Goodnight, in his cream Rolls, is pulling out of his driveway when he spots something that makes him look twice.

DAVE'S HOUSE

Dave's Rolls pulling into the driveway. Jerry is driving. Dave, totally filthy, gets out of the car.

ORVIS - ROLLS

ORVIS
... must have been a heavy night.

Orvis pulls out.

DAVE'S DRIVEWAY

Carmen and Barbara rush out, followed by Max with his camera.

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
I will never, ever forgive you! And this disgusting derelict is responsible.

DAVE
Keep it down, I got a headache.

BARBARA
And you stink!

DAVE
... Barbara, I spent the night with some poor, oppressed human begins. They live like animals. But they still have the capacity for joy.

BARBARA
I was panic stricken. You had no right to do it.

DAVE
Sometimes a man has to do what he wants, Barbara.

BARBARA
Sometimes a woman has to do what she wants!!!

DAVE
Is that a threat?

During the previous dialogue the Gardener and the Pool Man have arrived and are surreptitiously watching. Barbara spins on her heels and goes into the house, followed by Dave who keeps repeating "Is that a threat?"

JERRY
(to Carmen)
I'm hungry.

CARMEN
Don't mess the kitchen. I just clean it.

JERRY
(walking)
I think I'll take a jacuzzi.

CARMEN
You make trouble!

INT. BEDROOM - MED. SHOT - BARBARA - DAY

In the darkness she is on the phone. She is calling DR. TONI GRANT. She watches her radio. INTERCUT.

TONI (V.O.)
There's no way to justify incest. Let's try to get one more call before the hour is up.

BARBARA
My name is Dawn. I'm 44 years old and I live in Beverly Hills.

TONI (V.O.)
We have Dawn from Beverly Hills. Hello...

BARBARA
Hello, Dr. Grant... I'm a nervous wreck. My husband has brought this bum home to live with us.

EXT. WILSHIRE BOULEVARD - FULL SHOT

Dave is driving to work and he hears his wife on the radio.

TONI (V.O.)
Well, it sounds like you have a genuine problem. At least, your husband does... a kind of male mid-life crisis. Is your husband a happy man?

BARBARA (V.O.)
Not lately.

Dave winces.

TONI (V.O.)
It's possible your husband is living a vicariously freer life through the presence of this street person he's brought home.

BARBARA (V.O.)
I am very depressed, Dr. Grant.

TONI (V.O.)
How's your sex life?

BARBARA (V.O.)
Non-existent at the moment.

Dave mops his brow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONI (V.O.)
We have to take a break for a commercial, Dawn. Can you hold?

EXT. YARD - MED. SHOT - GERALDO

Barbara testing the water flow in her new waterfall. Geraldo does the honors and the burst of water knocks Mr. Nagamichi and his blower into the bushes.

FULL SHOT - DOORWAY - DAY

A MAN with a bald head smiles at Barbara.

RATMAN
You got rats... Norwegian rats... big babies...
(laugh)
... but we'll get them... sooner or later.

Barbara gulps.

EXT. MED. SHOT - NIGEL

He checks the valves in the sprinkler system. Barbara watches.

NIGEL
You've got to replace all the valves. They are at least twenty years old. It'll cost between three thousand and eight thousand.

EXT. RODEO DRIVE - ROLLS - DAY

Dave is on the car phone as he moves slowly down Rodeo Drive.

DAVE
Dr. Grant... hello. Dr. Grant? My name is Bob and I'm thirty-eight years old. I'm no longer attracted to my wife and it worries me.

TONI (V.O.)
How long has this been going on, Bob?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
About nine and a half years.

Suddenly a car rams the Rolls from behind.

DAVE
(continuing; shouts)
You dirty son-of-a-bitch!

We hear the SOUND OF THE PHONE HANGING UP.

EXT. GARDEN - MED. SHOT - DAY

Jerry is making himself at home. He is finishing a series of Tai Chi exercises wearing a loin cloth he has fashioned out of a T-shirt. He tries to show Carmen but she giggles and runs away.

INT. MAX'S ROOM - WINDOW - DAY

Max watches Jerry, as if enchanted.

INT. BARBARA'S ROOM WINDOW - DAY

She is watching Jerry at play. He is not so unattractive now. The exercises are both sensual and graceful. She places a hot rag on her forehead for her headache.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAY

Jerry now wrapped in a towel comes upstairs looking for Barbara.

HIS POV

She lies on her bed with a hot pack on her face.

JERRY
Barbara.

BARBARA
What is it?

JERRY
The jacuzzi is on the blink.

BARBARA
Everything is happening today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
Still got your headache?

BARBARA
It's chronic. I try meditation. Everything.

JERRY
Maybe you should try some Tai Chi.

BARBARA
I saw you. Where did you learn that?

JERRY
At an ashram in Oregon.

BARBARA
You were in an ashram?

JERRY
It was great... with Baba Damdouche.

BARBARA
Why did you leave?

JERRY
It burned down. Just my luck. Maybe I could help your headache.

BARBARA
How?

JERRY
Well, at the ashram we learned a Balinese massage technique. Mainly with hands and feet.

She looks up suspiciously.

BARBARA
I don't know. I'm a little tense.

JERRY
I'd say you were very tense... rigid.

BARBARA
I'm angry at you and I'm angry at my husband for going off with you last night.

He begins and the massage starts to relax her. His touch is so gentle and yet powerful.

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
(continuing)
I had acupressure but that didn't help.

JERRY
Headaches... mostly related to built-up anxiety and tension. So you have to find a way to release the anxiety.

By submitting to another man's touch, Barbara has already broken new ground.

JERRY
(continuing)
Can I close the curtains... just for the Karma?

BARBARA
And close the door before Max starts with his camera. People could get the wrong idea.

He stops and sets the mood. He begins now the massage of massages.

JERRY
Hell, at first, I will not touch you physically... but I will use my aura...

He moves his hands slowly over her entire body but without touching. This almost touching is more sensual than touching in some tension-building way.

JERRY
(continuing)
Just relax.

BARBARA
I am.

He begins to massage her hands first. Jerry is an expert and throws himself into a rhythm. Barbara has not been caressed this way in years and she involuntarily moans and yelps with each small pain.

BARBARA
(continuing)
Sorry.

JERRY
Your body is letting go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
I can really feel it.

JERRY
The headache.

BARBARA
Fading.

Now Jerry moves to her feet and legs. Long strokes and then kneading of the soles and massaging of her toes. Barbara is moving in ecstasy, transported without awareness to high sexual arousal.

JERRY
You have nice skin.

BARBARA
Thank you! God... I'm so relaxed.

More massage and she begins to weep.

BARBARA
(continuing)
Jerry... something strange is happening. I'm scared.

Her breath becomes more excited.

JERRY
You're just freeing up. Let yourself go.

More strokes. More pleasure.

She turns and throws an arm around him so they roll to the floor.

BARBARA
Take me, Jerry. Invade me. Jangle me. I need... it... please... don't stop. Don't deny me.

Jerry takes Barbara. Barbara begins to pant and moan. Suddenly she lets out a yell of pent-up passion.

EXT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAY

We hear a PRIMEVAL SCREAM that comes from places forgotten years ago.

CLOSE SHOT - GLASS

CRYSTAL BREAKS.

ORANGE TREE

Birds take flight.

CARMEN

She jumps from the television.

MATISSE

The dog begins to HOWL.

DOG

A neighboring DOG BEGINS TO HOWL in answer. Soon all the DOGS of Beverly Hills are HOWLING.

MED. SHOT - TOW TRUCK - DAY

Dave is watching his beloved Rolls being hitched.

BEDROOM - BARBARA

She is feeing great. She smokes without inhaling. Jerry still works on the final kinks in her toes.

BARBARA
I never thought I was capable of this. I'm ashamed of myself. I am. Glad and ashamed. Exhausted and invigorated at the same time. Opposite feelings... just as I was repelled and attracted to you at the same time. Yin... yang.

JERRY
It was just one of those things.

BARBARA
I haven't had an orgasm like that in nine and a half years. Dave lost interest in me and I... lost interest... in sex. I shopped for gratification, but that's like sex without a climax. My toes are tingling... pearl strands.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA (CONT'D)
I am loose. All the meditation... all the yoga... never got me to this place. I even wanted to walk on fire.

JERRY
I can teach you how to do that. I learned it in India.

BARBARA
Good sex brings good karma. You found my G spot. But... this was a one-time... trip to the moon, Jerry. It happened... and there is nothing we can do about it now... except... no matter how fantastic it was... we can never repeat this adventure. Never.

JERRY
I agree.

BARBARA
Even though I'm well aware of Dave and sweet Carmen. I felt he needed a little confidence building and I thought she could invigorate him for me. But all the time I was denying myself. What power and heat were building in me... like a volcano, Jerry. And you set me off. I'm glad to be back in the real world again. Poor Dave. He is a passionate, sweet man, Jerry.

EXT. STREET - MED. SHOT - DAVE

Dave is in passionate disagreement with the tow truck man from Rolls Royce who is hauling his car.

INT. MED. SHOT - JERRY - DAY

Jerry walks into the hallway of the house, lingering in his thoughts for a moment before opening the bathroom door.

HIS POV

Parked before the bathroom mirror is an astonished and wary Max wearing curlers and finishing his elaborate eye makeup.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His lipstick is a Revlon deep red. The two men stare at each other for a long moment as some truth is perceived between them.

JERRY
I think you should go with something a little more orange.

He closes the door respectfully. Leaving Max still frozen in surprise.

EXT. MED. SHOT - DAVE - DAY

Dave arrives in a tow truck. He is angry and sullen and disappointed. As he arrives, his Iranian neighbor, Mr. MASOUD, is loading his limo with five chadoored women. Jerry has come out to see the tow truck. Masoud goes to Jerry.

MASOUD
Thank you for speaking to my son Abkar. He has few friends. He is very lonely here in Beverly Hills.

He peels off five hundred dollars from his pocket wad and gives it to Jerry.

MASOUD
(continuing)
Perhaps, he could visit you one day for Coke and backgammon.

Jerry is stunned.

JERRY
Any time...

MASOUD
... Thank you.

He is gone in the limo as Dave staggers to his door.

INT. BEDROOM

Dave comes in.

DAVE
(to Barbara)
What a day. A Pontiac smashed me from behind. And the Iranian guy next door gave Jerry five hundred dollars for saying hello to his son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
You look tired, darling. Can I get you a drink?

DAVE
Did you hear what I said?

BARBARA
I've had an interesting day, too.

DAVE
I know that wouldn't last you an afternoon at Saks but to some people that's a lot of money.

Barbara mixes a drink from the bedroom fridge.

BARBARA
Rum... low-cal tonic. Slice of lime.

She hands Dave his drink. He sips it.

DAVE
Thanks... I'm sorry I screamed at you this morning. I was tense.

BARBARA
That's okay, darling. A man from the city of Beverly Hills came by today. He said we had rats. Norwegian rats. It's an epidemic or something.

Barbara mixes herself a drink.

DAVE
I'm glad they are Norwegian. They probably are building a ski jump in the yard.

BARBARA
Maybe they just want some herring.

DAVE
Since when did you start drinking again?

BARBARA
(smiles)
Vodka comes from a berry, doesn't it?

She plops in his lap and gives him a big wet kiss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
(continuing)
I'm crazy for you, Dave. Do it to me, sweetie. Make me come fifty-five times.

INT. BEDROOM - MED. SHOT - NIGHT

Barb in her sexiest lingerie lies asleep in the bed with a smile on her face. Now it is Dave who cannot sleep and who has the headache.

INT. KITCHEN - FULL SHOT - DAVE

Dave enters. Matisse GROWLS, a misplaced temple dog.

DAVE
Don't fuck with me or I'll kick you in the cajones.

Dave hears LAUGHTER. It is Carmen's laughter and then we hear Jerry's low guttural voice. Dave is weak-kneed now with jealousy. He approaches the door of Carmen's room and guiltily bends to look through the keyhole of her door. He stops himself and ties up his Japanese robe and goes back to the kitchen. He hears:

CARMEN (O.S.)
How cute... show it to me again.

JERRY (O.S.)
Calm down.

CARMEN (O.S.)
I love that, Jerry. Do it again.

JERRY (O.S.)
Alright. They always said you Latins were excitable.

INT. BEDROOM - FULL SHOT - CARMEN

Her neat room where she and Jerry have been snacking. He is showing her some sleight of hand, elemental magic tricks. She squeals again with delight.

CARMEN
Oh, Jerry.

INT. KITCHEN - FULL SHOT - DAVE

Wanting his presence to be acknowledged but not wanting to stoop to keyhole watching or to displays of jealousy, Dave begins to open and shut cabinets and refrigerators. He makes as much noise as he can. He whistles and TURNS ON THE BLENDER and drops a pot. The laughter just continues O.S. Dave opens the refrigerator and looks for something.

DAVE
(to himself)
Where's the ham... the Bavarian ham?

Jerry pops out suddenly.

JERRY
Dave.

Dave jumps.

JERRY
(continuing)
Hurt yourself?

DAVE
No... you know where the Bavarian ham is?

JERRY
I ate the last of it. Me and Carmen and Matisse.

DAVE
You gave some to Matisse?

JERRY
He loves it. With Swiss cheese.

DAVE
The cheese is gone too?

JERRY
Yeah. What are you doing up?

DAVE
Headache.

JERRY
Where is it?

DAVE
In the back of my head... in the neck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
Sit down, amigo...

DAVE
For what?

JERRY
See if I can relieve that headache.

DAVE
(sitting)
Barbara said you got rid of her headache.

JERRY
(he cups Dave's head in his hand)
Relax. Think of something peaceful... lovely.

DAVE
A ham and Swiss on rye.

JERRY
The rye bread is gone, too.

He pops the neck in one swift motion and Dave shakes his head to see if it is still attached. Jerry now vigorously does Dave's hands and shoulders.

DAVE
Wow.

JERRY
Helps the blood flow.

DAVE
It's better... I think.

JERRY
Give it a minute.

CARMEN (O.S.)
Jerry. Bring me a Tab, please.

Jerry disappears with the Tab for Carmen. The door closes and Dave still feels uneasy even with a departing headache. The kitchen is silent and he shuts the light nearly stepping on the GROWLING DOG as he exits.

EXT. YARD - LATE DAY

Barbara sits in a deck chair and reads... Carmen is shelling peas... Jerry is teaching Matisse a new trick. The dog approaches the end of the diving board...

DIVING BOARD

On command, Matisse does a half-gainer.

YARD

Jerry applauds. So does Carmen. Dave comes into the yard. He is upset.

JERRY
Matisse just did a half-gainer.

DAVE
We may have a strike in Tijuana. Those rotten Mexicans are driving me crazy.

CARMEN
(angry)
Chinga tu madre!!!

DAVE
Sorry, Carmen. I'm just nervous. The Chinese are getting cold feet. It could kill us.

BARBARA
Are they still coming for New Year's Eve?

DAVE
Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA
(whispers to Dave)
That was wonderful last night.

JERRY
(as Matisse does another dive)
Way to go, Matisse!

DAVE
The dog is giving me a headache, Jerry.

JERRY
You sure it isn't me?

DAVE
I'm not sure of anything any more.

JERRY
I understand. I'm sort of getting on your nerves. I've worn out my welcome.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Don't take me wrong. It's that I just would like to see you use your talents.

JERRY
My talent is to survive. I'm a successful bum... I can leave any time. This afternoon.

DAVE
I could get you a job managing one of my trailer parks. It would be a steady thing. Clean air by the ocean.

JERRY
Thanks, Dave, but I don't think I'd be good at it.

DAVE
Sure you would.

JERRY
People are always complaining. The septic tank is backing up. Their trailer is sliding down the hill. I don't think I could deal with that responsibility.

DAVE
I could get you on at the car wash. That's mostly automated now.

JERRY
Machines break... Hey, I think it's time to go... Besides...
(he smiles)
I got the money from the Iranian next door.

Dave and Barbara and Carmen look at each other. It's clear they are not yet ready to say goodbye to Jerry.

DAVE
Ahhh... at least stay through the holidays.

JERRY
You're the boss, Dave.

Jerry goes into the house.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

As Jerry goes to the kitchen, Max stops him.

MAX
Thanks.

JERRY
For what, Max?

MAX
That was a big moment for me... When you saw me.

JERRY
You have to be what you're gonna be.

MAX
I'm not sure what I'm going to be.

JERRY
You can't hide forever. Anyway, what's the big deal?

MAX
But my father...

JERRY
Believe me. He's a lot more tolerant than you think. Look what he did for me.

MAX
I'm afraid to bring my friends home. I'm afraid of my parents reaction.

JERRY
Your father and mother have been around. Try talking to them.

MAX
Okay, Jerry... thanks.

JERRY
Just remember what I said about orange.

INT. MED. SHOT - JERRY, BARBARA - DAY

Another massage session.

BARBARA
This is the absolute last time I'll ask for this, Jerry. I swear.

He is working each toe with delicate care.

EXT. YARD - FULL SHOT - DAY

Dave is looking at the waterfall. Suddenly he hears a STRANGE SOUND. It is a call to prayer from the minaret of the next door Iranians. Orvis pops his head over the fence at the sound.

ORVIS
Isn't that the last straw. Goes on all day.

DAVE
Got to go to the city council.

ORVIS
They'll buy those bastards off.

DAVE
I know the mayor.

ORVIS
You get up a petition and I'll sign it.
(pause)
Is that fellow your brother?

DAVE
What fellow?

ORVIS
The one who used to be a bum.

DAVE
No. Why did you think that?

ORVIS
Why else would you keep a fellow like that around. Unless he was your relative.

DAVE
I don't really know why I let him stay here.

ORVIS
Don't get me wrong. He looks better than he did when he first came but the other day I saw him up in the tree -- half naked.

DAVE
He goes up there to nap.

The SOUND of the PRAYERS STOP.

ORVIS
Hey, it's been good rapping with you, Dave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Same here, Orvis. I want you and your bride to come to our New Year's Eve party.

ORVIS
Thank you, my friend.

Just at that moment, Matisse attacks. Orvis is off like a shot.

EXT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - MR. NAGAMICHI

Mr. Nagamichi finishing work on the front yard. He cuts off his blower. He goes over to Dave who has just come out.

NAGAMICHI
Got to tell you. Something is killing the azaelas and your begonias in the backyard. Killed one hydrangea too. At first I thought the dog was peeing on them but damage is too big for little dog. I don't want you to think it's me or my boy.

DAVE
We both know who it is.

NAGAMICHI
You know, Dave, you look like you could use a vacation. I got a condo in Hawaii... Napilikai on Maui... you could use it anytime. You and the wife. Beautiful beach. Golf. You name it.

DAVE
Thanks.

Mr. Nagamichi nods and jumps on his rickety, sputtering truck.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - TWILIGHT

Carmen, Barbara and her friend Sheila are half-drunk and trying to walk on fire. Jerry has brought the charcoal from the barbecue and spread on the patio near the pool so that they have two yards of glowing coals. Sheila, wearing parachute pants that seem incredibly flammable, is the most hesitant. Barbara is brave as she receives instruction from Jerry on the mental game.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY
You have to concentrate on what I say.

BARBARA
Can I go to the bathroom? I am going to wet my pants.

JERRY
Just relax.

INT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAVE

Dave wearily comes into his house. He hears the SHOUTS from outside. Max gives Dave a video tape cassette. He is not carrying his camera.

MAX
Hello, Dad. Please play this tape when you get a chance.

DAVE
Okay, kid.

Dave notices that his wine cellar door is open and that several partially opened bottles are on the table. He inspects.

DAVE
(disgusted)
Chateau Lafitte... Chateau Haut Brion. What's going on?

EXT. GARDEN - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

Barbara is walking across the coals while everyone holds their breath. She makes it and cheers ring up but when they notice Dave they act like children caught in the act.

BARBARA
Darling... I just walked on fire.

DAVE
Great. My day is made.

BARBARA
Jerry is showing us how to do it.

SHEILA
He learned it in India.

CARMEN
I'm next.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHEILA
Try it, Dave. Come on.

BARBARA
It's like therapy.

DAVE
I don't need therapy. Who has been in my wine?

BARBARA
We felt like having a little... something.

JERRY
It was me.

CARMEN
I'm ready now. I'm meditating.

DAVE
Four bottles... open on the table.

JERRY
They weren't so hot anyway. I tried them.

DAVE
(about to explode)
What do you know about it. I went up to Santa Barbara to the Academie de Vin. I got a diploma for it.

JERRY
If you hung out with as many winos as I have, you get to know your wine. In fact, a lot of that wine is very old... five or six years. It can turn to vinegar like that.

Dave's head is spinning. He wants to punch Jerry but he watches as Carmen does her walk but loses her nerve in mid-coals.

DAVE
Someone has been pissing on the hydrangeas!!

His scream fills the air. All of the participants stop. The MUEZZIN COMES TO LIFE in the minaret as Dave spins to go inside.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Barbara preparing for bed. Dave puts the video tape on that Max gave him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Max Fellini just made a new movie.

VIDEO TAPE

Max appears on the screen.

MAX
Hi, Mom and Dad. Jerry has urged me to try and communicate with you. Too often, in our relationship, you have shown only anger to me...

DAVE AND BARBARA

Dave is getting upset... Barbara strokes his neck.

VIDEO

MAX
...Jerry says anger will get you nowhere. Here are some samples of your anger.

MONTAGE

Now follows quick cuts of Dave and Barbara from various previous scenes. They see all angry scenes where Dave and Barbara are shouting at Max or at each other or at the police or at the dog or at Orvis or at Jerry or at Carmen. It lasts maybe fifteen or twenty seconds. Then Max reappears on screen.

MAX
... That's all, folks. P.S. I love you.

Video fades to black.

DAVE AND BARBARA

shocked.

DAVE
Why doesn't he show the nice scenes?

BARBARA
He's trying to reach us, Dave. He's trying to say something to us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Maybe he should call Dr. Toni Grant.

Barbara throws him a look. Dave gets into bed. He checks his blood pressure on a portable machine. He is depressed.

DAVE
(continuing)
... Ah, life... He loves Jerry more than me.

BARBARA
Relax, darling. You feeling... sexy tonight?

DAVE
No.

BARBARA
It might... calm you down.

DAVE
I've got to do something about Jerry.

BARBARA
But not tonight.

DAVE
He's pissing in the yard... killing the flowers. Cleaning out the refrigerator.

BARBARA
You wanted him to feel at home.

DAVE
Well, I feel like a guest here.

BARBARA
He has helped my headaches.

DAVE
He should open a clinic. I offered the guy a job and he said it was too much trouble. Well, these guys don't want to be responsible. That's it. I got to get him out of here.

BARBARA
Wait at least until after the party.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
How come you all of a sudden are defending him?

BARBARA
Dave, you've done a wonderful thing for this man. And you have taught me a lesson in the process. You are giving him a chance to come back into society. Now... it's traumatic for both of you. He resists... and sometimes you get really disappointed and angry ... but don't give up.

DAVE
And I think he's diddling Carmen.

BARBARA
That bastard has to go.

DAVE
(looks at his blood pressure reading)
My diastolic is way up!

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Jerry eating a grapefruit from the tree. Barbara is jealous. Geraldo is testing the waterfall.

BARBARA
What's this I hear about you and Carmen?

JERRY
I just showed her some magic tricks.

BARBARA
Keep it up, Jerry, and you're going to disappear.

JERRY
I swear. Dave would kill me.

BARBARA
It's not Dave you have to worry about.

She joins Geraldo to discuss the waterfall.

JERRY
(to himself)
Too much pressure.

NEW ANGLE - JERRY

Stops the car. He swings the door open.

JERRY
Al, get in the car. It's me, Jerry.

Al slowly peers in.

AL
Did you swipe it?

JERRY
No. Let's go for a little joy ride.

AL
Got a smoke?

JERRY
Filters.

Al gets in.

AL
That's okay. I can tear 'em off. I'll be goddamned. What a setup you got.

FULL SHOT - SANTA MONICA FREEWAY - DAY

The Rolls is cruising along, the top down. It is now filled with more bums. Aside from Al and Jerry, there is the beach group. PAT, with the red nose, DIRTY ED, TOM TOM, the Indian, and SWEETIE, the lady bum. They are having awonderful time, waving at people in other cars. (SONG is driving harder now.) d abiding dirt.

PAT
Ain't this just great. Smoking and riding.

AL
(waves to another car)
Merry Christmas!

SWEETIE
Happy New Year!

TOM TOM
The cops are going to stop us. We don't look too kosher.

The car swerves as Jerry heads off the freeway.

INT. KITCHEN - FULL SHOT - DAY

Dave sees Carmen reading a book in Spanish.

DAVE
I'm sorry we haven't had any playtime. Tonight, okay? Playtime in the pantry... What are you reading?

Carmen gives Dave a new tough look. Barbara hurries in.

BARBARA
Geraldo's having trouble with the waterfall.

DAVE
That waterfall is costing me more than Niagara Falls... What time is Jenny coming in?

BARBARA
Around four, but I just loaned Jerry your car so he can pick up his Santa Claus suit at Western Costume.

DAVE
I hope he knows I have to pick up Jenny at four.

BARBARA
Oh he'll be back by then. You think Minister Chao likes mariachis? It's very California.

INT. CAR - FULL SHOT - JERRY - DAY

Jerry driving through Beverly Hills in the Rolls Royce. He is singing to himself and looking at the crowds and watching how they watch him. (From the car RADIO perhaps we hear RANDY NEWMAN'S "I LOVE L.A." through this and the following.)

HIS POV

A pretty girl waves to him. Then we see his friend Al.

JERRY
Hey, Al... Al!

Al is slightly frightened.

STREET

PAT
We need some joy juice.

TOM TOM
Let's tie one on.

AL
Gonna have a pow-wow.

(SONG going into high gear.)

EXT. THRIFTY'S PARKING LOT - BEVERLY HILLS - MED. SHOT

The Rolls pulls up in between a Mercedes and a Jaguar. Several shoppers stare at this weird and scruffy group as they go into the store.

TRENDY MALE SHOPPER
(to his friend)
These British rock groups are really getting sleazy.

INT. THRIFTY'S LIQUOR SECTION

Jerry is paying for several bottles of cheap wine in paper bags. Roxanne Philobosian, the girl he met at the Restaurant, spots Jerry.

ROXANNE
How's it going, Jerry?

JERRY
Nice to see you, Roxanne.

ROXANNE
I'm not at Fox anymore. But I've got something working at Columbia.

JERRY
Fabulous.

EXT. PARKING LOT

as the group comes to the car, drinking from bottles in paper bags... Jerry is stunned.

JERRY
Oh, my God! Someone swiped the car radio. Dave's gonna fry me for this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SWEETIE
I told you it wasn't safe in Beverly Hills.

JERRY
I've got to split... You folks grab a taxi. Here...
(he peels off some bills and hands them to Sweetie)
Divide it.

SWEETIE
This is four hundred bucks, Jerry.

JERRY
Hallelujah!

("I LOVE L.A." finishes.)

EXT. YARD - DAY

Dave is getting ready to go to the airport. He checks his watch. He dials the airline on the remote phone.

DAVE
Is Flight Five on time? It is.

Just as he starts to watch a team of Sikh pool cleaners, Jerry arrives with a box from the liquor store and a Santa suit on a hanger.

DAVE
(continuing)
Where the hell have you been?

JERRY
Lot to do.

DAVE
Give me the keys... I've got to go to the airport.

JERRY
I had a little accident.

DAVE
What?

JERRY
The car radio was stolen. I'm really sorry, Dave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
(shaken badly)
... My Blaupunkt! My Blaupunkt!

JERRY
It's only a radio, Dave.

FULL SHOT - AIRPORT - DAY

Dave and Jenny. They load up the car.

DAVE
Where's your boyfriend?

JENNY
What a wimp he turned out to be. It's good to be home, Dad. Now tell me something about this guy, Jerry. Mother says he is very gifted.

DAVE
He's okay... On the way home we can stop at the deli.

JENNY
Ugh... I'm getting ill.

DAVE
You used to love Nate n' Al's. I'd walk you there.

JENNY
I was ten years old then, Dad.

DAVE
... They stole my Balupunket.

FULL SHOT - DINING ROOM - EVENING

No one is talking at dinner except the usually silent Max. He wears an earring and is not using his camera.

MAX
I'm really looking forward to the party. Is it okay if I invite a couple of friends?

BARBARA
Sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX
How many of the Chinese are coming?

DAVE
Twelve. They travel in groups.

MAX
What kind of food are we having?

CARMEN
Kosher, Chinese and Mexican.

DAVE
Oh... I invited Orvis and his wife.

BARBARA
That's nice, Dave.

Jenny and Jerry are eyeing each other. As usual, she is not eating.

JERRY
(to Jenny)
You have had a lot to eat on the plane.

JENNY
I don't remember talking to you.

JERRY
Just that you look like you're starving.

JENNY
Keep your brilliant insights to yourself, okay?

BARBARA
We don't talk about it, Jerry.

MAX
It's better to talk about it. It's better to get things out in the open.

JENNY
Shut up, Max.
(to Jerry)
You're a trouble-maker, mister. Stay out of family business.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
She's right, Jerry... I think I've had it with you, too.

JERRY
I apologized about the radio.

DAVE
It's not just the radio.

JERRY
(rises)
Okay, folks. Time for Jerry to say adios.

MAX
No!

CARMEN
No!

BARBARA
Dave! This can wait!

DAVE
We'll talk about it after the party...

JERRY
(sits)
You're the boss, Dave.

INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jenny is troubled and she can't sleep. She hears something, MUSIC, PIANO MUSIC coming from a distance. It is beautiful. Jenny rises.

FULL SHOT - HALLWAY

The hallway is dark but SOUND OF CHOPIN on the PIANO intrigues Jenny. Tying her robe, she tiptoes downstairs.

INT. BEDROOM - MED. SHOT - DAVE - NIGHT

Dave is restless too and he checks to see if Barbara is asleep.

INT. MED. SHOT - JENNY - NIGHT

She walks to the distant music room. The door is cracked and she opens it. Jerry is playing. She watches for a moment and then shuts the door. The NOISE makes him stop playing. Matisse sits adoringly at Jerry's feet.

JENNY
Chopin?

JERRY
Yeah.

JENNY
You play very well.

JERRY
Fair. I haven't played much lately. Hard to find a piano in the alleys.

JENNY
Just another one of your hidden talents.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

He sneaks down the stairs for his rendezvous with Carmen.

MED. SHOT - JENNY

JENNY
Keep playing.

Jerry plays.

JERRY
When I did the concert circuit, I always opened with Chopin.

JENNY
I want you to know that I'm on to you, Jerry. You're very attractive in a sick way. A real sociopath... charming, iconoclastic. I'm a psych major... you know, so I'm well aware of your powers. My parents on the other hand are kind, compassionate and naive people. And you are taking advantage of their kindness and naivete.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY (CONT'D)
That's disgusting... immoral and I will not tolerate it. You understand? Now you can find a way to leave gracefully and quietly or I'll just have to find tougher ways to deal with you. The game, Jerry, is over... as of tonight.

She hovers over him and suddenly he grabs her in his arms, giving her a deep, passionate kiss. Even Matisse is startled and leaves the room.

INT. PANTRY - FULL SHOT - NIGHT

Carmen and Dave. She is wary and quiet. He is confused.

DAVE
So all of a sudden what's the matter?

CARMEN
You wouldn't understand.

DAVE
Don't you like me?

CARMEN
Is not the point... even though I think you're cute.

DAVE
You want a raise?

CARMEN
You are the exploiter and I... am the exploited.

DAVE
You want a bigger room?

CARMEN
We are in a struggle... I am the worker and you are the capitalist. The only way to change this... is revolution.

DAVE
We were having fun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARMEN
Decadent fun. You are the imperialist and I am the third world.

DAVE
Did you just join a Communist discussion group? My father was a Communist for a couple of years during the depression.

CARMEN
You betrayed your class.

DAVE
Where are you learning this stuff?

CARMEN
Books.

DAVE
What books?

CARMEN
The books Jerry gave to me.

The name enrages him.

DAVE
Jerry... Jerry.

INT. CLOSE SHOT - JENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

her eyes closed with rising passion, as she writhes on the floor. Jerry makes love to her.

JENNY
Jerry... Jerry... Jerrrry...

EXT. GARDEN - FULL SHOT - LATE DAY

Everyone we've met before is here for the party. Sidney and Pearl, Mel and Sadie, Lou and Sheila... Barbara is in her element. She looks the decor over and signals to Geraldo. He opens the valve that releases the water into her new waterfall and pond. The first attempt is too strong. The water hits the mariachi band and they start playing "La Paloma" on instinct.

INT. CABANA - MED. SHOT - JERRY

He is slipping into the Santa suit.

MED. SHOT - CATERERS

Huge trays of Chinese food carried in by several Chinese men.

DAVE AND BARBARA

DAVE
There they are! There's Minister Chao!

BARBARA
Relax, Dave. That's the caterer. I hope they brought enough Abalone Delight.

FULL SHOT

Orvis and his wife enter. The WIFE is gorgeous and white.

ORVIS
(to Dave)
Dave, I'd like you to meet my wife, Sandra.

DAVE
Sandra, Orvis... I'd like you to meet my wife Barbara... This is Lou and Sheila and Sidney and Pearl and this is my mom and dad.

ORVIS
Pleasure.

SANDRA
(New York accent)
Gorgeous house.

SADIE
(to Mel)
Is that his wife? The white girl?

MEL
(deaf)
They don't have any white meat.

SIDNEY
(to Dave)
We're buying into a retirment home in Phoenix.

FULL SHOT - MARIACHIS

They are singing and while the Sikhs work on the jacuzzi. Suddenly the BAND CHANGES TEMPO into something they think is Oriental.

NEW ANGLE - DOORWAY

The Chinese delegation arrives led by MINISTER CHAO who smiles at Dave. We see that Barbara has put up some very exotic Chinese decorations.

DAVE
Welcome to my home, Minister Chao ... Minister Dong and all the other ministers and managers... I see Mr. Lee...

Chao says something and they all laugh.

TRANSLATOR
Minister Chao says "Is it all right if we hang around." Business joke. Get it? Hangers? Hang?

DAVE
I get the hang of it.

The translation is like a time delay. Suddenly they burst with laughter.

DAVE
(continuing)
This is my wife Barbara.

She bows.

TRANSLATOR
Brightest flower in the garden.

BARBARA
Would the Minister care for some Shanghai plum wine?

Chinese is spoken.

TRANSLATOR
Tab.

Carmen is serving drinks and she heads straight for the delegation. They are looking at her legs.

CARMEN
Comrades... viva la revolucion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She raises her fist in solidarity as they take drinks from her tray. She is somewhat dismayed by their lack of reaction to the red star pinned to her blouse.

CARMEN
(continuing)
More power to the people, comrades.

JERRY

Jerry's a rather thin Santa Claus. He is dispensing party favors and gifts.

FULL SHOT - YARD - DAY

The party is in full tilt. Dave with a drink in his hand and an arm around Jerry's Santa.

DAVE
Tell Minister Chao... that this man was eating... garbage a few weeks ago.

The translation is long.

TRANSLATOR
What is garbage?

DAVE
Trash... things you throw away.

After it is translated the Chinese all shake hands with Jerry thinking that he is a model of American ingenuity.

TRANSLATOR
Very efficient... Congratulations.

MED. SHOT - JENNY

She wears a slinky dress and she moves directly for the buffet where she loads up on food, eating with great gusto.

MED. SHOT - BARBARA

She is concerned with the volume of water cascading from her new waterfall and Geraldo tries to turn it down. He is soiling his white suit.

MATISSE

Matisse races through the crowd and attacks Orvis, who kicks him away.

MED. SHOT - DAVE

He is glowing with the success of the party. He kisses Barbara as she passes.

DAVE
You're a fabulous hostess, Barb.

MAX
Dad... I want you to meet some friends of mine.

Without turning Dave introduces Max to the Chinese.

DAVE
Ministers Chao and Dong... this is my son Max...

As he turns he sees Max in pearls and vermillion eye shadow. He stands next to another smiling young transvestite and a Mexican who looks like Prince. Half a dozen other lads in Boy George get-ups curtsy.

DAVE
(continuing)
... I want him to run the company some day but...

The shock sets in.

MAX
This is Billy and Jose.
(stage whisper as he kisses his father on the cheek)
I know that you're shocked but don't say anything until you've thought about it. Until Jerry encouraged me to face the truth ... I was in torment.
(he pulls back)
Nice to meet you, Mr. Dong and Chao... Oh, Dad... I got lipstick on you.

Dave is close to a coronary. Jerry has tactfully drifted to another corner.

JENNY
Just let it go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Max...

JENNY
(she takes his arm and steers him to the buffet)
I saw him. Such a show off. It's part of growing up now, Dad. This kind of androgynous thing... cross-dressing... it will pass. Teenagers are under a lot of sexual pressure and this relieves it.

DAVE
This relieves it?

JENNY
Here.

She tries to feed him a nacho and devours one herself.

DAVE
You're eating, darling girl!

JENNY
I'm starving.

DAVE
My little angel.

JENNY
I'm in love. Passionately... in love.

DAVE
Who is it?

JENNY
Nobody was ever good enough for me, you know. I needed the antithesis of you. I guess nobody could ever measure up to you. I was a real bitch. The princess. But once I let my illusions... my stupid preconceptions go and got down to some raw feeling. It was magic.

DAVE
Who do I have to thank for this miracle?

CONTINUED:

JENNY
(beaming)
Jerry. It was a miracle, Dad. We made love.

Dave's breathing becomes rapid and deep. He turns and sees Jerry dancing with Barbara. Dave lets out a scream, a howl, that stops the crowd and scares the birds from the trees. Matisse even cowers in the tall flowers.

MED. SHOT - JERRY

Jerry looks up just in time to see the charging bull that is Dave. The charge carries both of them into the water-lily decorated pool. Jerry, weighted down by the Santa suit, struggles hopelessly in the water.

DAVE
You... took... my baby... you...

Dave is incoherent and trying to drown Jerry.

CLOSEUP - BARBARA

She tries to remain calm.

BARBARA
Dave... Dave...
(finally)
Dave, don't kill him!

MED. SHOT - POOL - DAVE, JERRY

The struggle continues as Jenny shouts and some people jump into the pool to save Jerry and Dave, and others just jump in for the hell of it.

FULL SHOT - CHINESE

They are worried by this strange behavior until Sid shows up.

SID
This happens all the time in Beverly Hills. It is customary for people to jump into pools for the New year celebration.

POOL

Max leaps in to save Jerry. His friends follow suit. The Chinese arrive and they leap into the pool.

NEW ANGLE

Orvis and wife head for pool.

ORVIS
The man is beautiful.

Orvis and Sandra leap int the pool, followed by Lou and Sheila and Sidney and Pearl.

MATISSE

Leaps through the bushes and breaks a security alarm sensor. SOUND OF ALARM.

INT. ALARM OFFICE

Same guy as before sees the alarm light go on.

SAME GUY
Trouble at the OK Corral.

minaret

All of the Iranians watch the action.

MR. MASOUD
Why were we not invited?

A HELICOPTER BUZZES the minaret causing the Iranians to duck.

FULL SHOT

Helicopter flashing a giant beam of light on the pool area.

POV

Fifty or more people thrashing in the pool.

HELICOPTER

PILOT
(to Co-Pilot)
What a fucking party!

JERRY AND DAVE

Dave shoves Jerry under again.

MARIACHIS

Nothing can stop them.

EXT. HOUSE

The commotion is all in the back yard. Two kids leap from a pickup and into the Rolls and in a matter of seconds hot wire it and drive it away.

POOL

Same paramedics as in first scene are giving Jerry CPR. Dave is held back by Barbara and Carmen.

EXT. HOUSE - FULL SHOT - DAWN

All is suddenly quiet on this New Year's morning.

EXT. GARDEN AREA

The place is a mess. But everyone is gone... Except that we see Dave and Jerry snoozing on the lawn furniture. Dave wears a beach bathrobe and Jerry wears his Santa Claus bottoms. Matisse sleeps at Jerry's feet... Jerry opens an eye. So does Dave... They are exhausted and contrite. As they speak, we see Barbara, Jenny and Carmen wake up. They too have slept outside.

JERRY
Happy New Year.

DAVE
Wise guy.

JERRY
You tried to kill me.

DAVE
I lent you a hand and you bit it.

JERRY
I gave folks what they wanted.

The others are awake now and they sit up, listening to Dave and Jerry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVE
Linda Evans?

JERRY
No.

DAVE
The sister with leukemia?

JERRY
I don't have a sister. I have a brother in San Francisco. He's a banker.

BARBARA
The ashram?

JERRY
I drove by it once.

JENNY
The concert circuit?

JERRY
Naw.

CARMEN
The hot coal trick from India?

JERRY
I don't know where I got that one.

DAVE
You took advantage.

JERRY
Everything you give has a price. I don't need it.

Jerry gets up and starts taking off his wet clothes.

DAVE
I know... you're free. You can eat garbage.

Jerry takes off the pants.

JERRY
Your pants.

DAVE
That's my underwear, too.

JERRY
Right you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jerry takes it all off. Max has come out and is filming again. Jerry, bare-assed naked, walks into the cabana. Dave follows him and talks loudly to the form inside.

DAVE
When I first saw you, I thought there, but for the grace of God goes Dave Whiteman... But it's not only luck that separates us...

Jerry emerges from the cabana. He has put on the old pants bottoms he first arrived in... He puts on the rest of the old "Bum's" outfit as Dave continues.

DAVE
(continuing)
You're down and out because that's what you want to be... you don't have the balls to commit to anything... you get people to like you and when things get rough you run...
(fighting his emotion)
I know it's shit out there on the streets. I know it's a dirty, filthy sewer out there.

JERRY
Yeah, but you can piss where you want to.

DAVE
You can piss here if you want to, Jerry.

JERRY
Thanks for everything, Dave. We had a lot of laughs.

Jerry, looking just like he did when he first came, heads for the alley gate. Dave knows he has lost.

DAVE
So long, Jerry.

CARMEN
Adios, amigo.

JENNY
I'll never eat again.

BARBARA
I'm getting a terrible headache.

MAX
Departure scene. Take one.

ALLEY

Jerry starts to walk. Matisse, BARKING WILDLY, follows Jerry. We see the family step into the gate area.

GATE

There they all are. Dave, Barbara, Jenny, Carmen and Max with the camera.

BARBARA
You can have him, Jerry. He loves you.

ALLEY - FULL SHOT

The alley is empty except for a lonely grocery cart someone has left.

JERRY
Well, Matty, it's our lucky day.

The dog follows Jerry as he pushes the cart.

FAMILY

staring...

JERRY

strutting down the alley with Matisse. But the dog seems a bit confused now by this escape. He looks back to the family.

JERRY
Lot of places we can go, Among. Frisco, Santa Fe, Ensenada... North or south... east or west...
(but the dog has stopped)
What's the matter, boy? You hungry? Plenty of good garbage.

FULL SHOT

Jerry looks through a garbage can. Finds something... He looks through the next can and finds some more stuff. He puts it down for the dog, but the dog refuses to eat it.

JERRY
Hey, this is primo stuff.

CONTINUED:

Jerry tries to eat some garbage, but it disgusts him. The DOG BARKS and motions for Jerry to go back to the gate.

FAMILY

watching.

JERRY

goes to another can and reaches for some garbage. He stops.

HIS POV

A very tired Bum sits there and sleeps it off.

JERRY

sighs. Reaches into his pocket and takes out a wad of bills. He drops them on the Bum.

JERRY
I got forty-six bucks left, pal.
There you go.

BUM

snores, the bills on his chest.

REVERSE FULL SHOT - ALLEY

SHOOTING back towards the gate. Jerry leaves the grocery cart and heads back towards the house, followed by Matisse. CAMERA starts to TILT UP as the family steps out to greet Jerry and the dog. HIGHER AND HIGHER as we see down the alleys of Beverly Hills, all lined now with the old Christmas trees from the holiday.

FADE OUT.

THE END